



Southern Baptist leader bemoans abuse crisis, vows action

By J. REEVES and D. CRARY
Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama (AP) — Sharing a stage with tearful survivors of sex abuse, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention apologized Wednesday for the abuse crisis besetting his denomination and outlined an array of steps to address it.

"We are broken-hearted and angry," said the Rev. J.D. Greear as the largest U.S. protestant denomination neared the end of its two-day national meeting. "Give us the courage to make the changes that genuine repentance requires."

In an impassioned speech, preceded by prayers of lamentation, Greear blamed the crisis on years of cover-ups. He praised a new anti-abuse curriculum is being offered to all SBC churches and seminaries, and he said the SBC must

do better in screening potential pastors.

The Rev. Russell Moore, head of the SBC's public policy arm, said the abuse crisis is a result of satanic forces at work in the church.

"The vital question is what we will do next," Moore said during an address.

Moments earlier, dozens of abuse victims and supporters stood during a prayer for survivors of sexual misconduct. Some wept openly. Abuse survivor Stephanie Davis stood onstage and received a standing ovation after a video presentation in which she recounted her experience. Davis said she was abused as a teen by a music minister who went on to seminary and kept working in churches until last year. "No one ever told me it wasn't my fault," she said.

Continued on Page 3



Jim Hill of Denver, Colo., from left, joins Shawn Summers and Ella Summers, both of St. Louis, Mo., in handing out information outside the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting Tuesday, June 11, 2019, during a rally in Birmingham, Ala.

Associated Press

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Former Trump aide Hope Hicks agrees to Judiciary interview

By **MARY CLARE JALONICK**
and **ERIC TUCKER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former White House communications director Hope Hicks has agreed to a closed-door interview with the House Judiciary Committee, the panel announced Wednesday, a breakthrough for Democrats who have been frustrated by President Donald Trump's broad stonewalling of their investigations.

The Judiciary panel subpoenaed Hicks, a close and trusted Trump aide who worked for the presidential campaign and in the White House, last month as part of its investigation into special counsel Robert Mueller's report and obstruction of justice. Her June 19 inter-



In this Feb. 27, 2018 photo, then-White House Communications Director Hope Hicks arrives to meet behind closed doors with the House Intelligence Committee, at the Capitol in Washington. **Associated Press**

view will mark the first time a former Trump aide has testified before the panel as part of its probe. Hicks was a key witness for Mueller, delivering important information to the special

counsel's office about multiple episodes involving the president. That includes the president's role in the drafting of a misleading and incomplete statement about a 2016 Trump Tower meet-

ing at which Donald Trump Jr. expected to receive dirt on Democrat Hillary Clinton.

Hicks and another former White House aide, Annie Donaldson, both defied subpoenas last week to provide documents to the committee after the White House directed them not to cooperate. That came after former White House counsel Don McGahn also defied subpoenas for documents and testimony at the direction of the White House. McGahn was mentioned frequently in Mueller's report, in addition to Donaldson, who was his aide. It is unclear whether Hicks will decline to answer some questions related to her time in the White House. She has so far declined to release any documents related to that period after the White House said she had no legal right to provide them. But she has turned over documents related to her time on the Trump campaign.

While the interview will be behind closed doors, the committee chairman, Jerrold Nadler, said the interview transcript will be released to the public.

"It is important to hear from Ms. Hicks, who was a key witness for the special counsel," Nadler said. "Ms. Hicks understands that the committee will be free to pose questions as it sees fit." Democrats hope that Hicks' interview will be the first of many related to Mueller's report. They are expected to go to court soon to enforce a subpoena against McGahn, and negotiations are ongoing for Mueller's own testimony. Mueller has made it clear that he doesn't want to testify and will not go beyond the substance of the report in any questioning,

but Democrats want to talk to him anyway.

Nadler said Tuesday that he also hopes to call in Jody Hunt, who served as former Attorney General Jeff Sessions' chief of staff, and former White House aide Rick Dearborn.

Absent key witnesses, Democrats have so far held hearings with issue experts to review Mueller's report, which examined Russian interference in the 2016 election and whether Trump obstructed justice as he tried to undermine the probe. On Wednesday, the House intelligence panel heard from former FBI officials who told lawmakers that Russian meddling in the 2016 election bore some of the textbook tricks of the trade of Kremlin spy-craft, including the volume and breadth of contacts with Trump associates.

After that hearing, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., threatened to subpoena FBI Director Christopher Wray for information related to the bureau's counterintelligence investigation into the Russian interference.

Schiff said he has unsuccessfully sought more information about that investigation and any links to Trump's campaign, including whether that probe is still active. The investigation was first disclosed by then-FBI Director James Comey at a committee hearing in March 2017, and Schiff said he has received few answers about it since Comey was fired by Trump two months later.

Schiff wants to know whether the FBI is still conducting any related counterintelligence investigations. Such inquiries can take years and extend far beyond a criminal probe. □



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Southern Baptist leader bemoans abuse crisis, vows action

Continued from Front

"We have to get this right," she said in the video, urging the church to stand with victims and to hold abusers accountable.

On Tuesday, the opening day of the meeting, delegates approved the SBC's first-ever measures aimed directly at combatting sex abuse committed by clergy and staff.

One provision establishes a permanent committee to review allegations of abuse at member churches and recommend action if warranted. Two other proposals, if ratified again next year, would specify that churches could be expelled from the denomination for mishandling cases of sexual abuse or racial discrimination.

The committee assigned to review abuse cases will have four women among its nine members. But delegates voted down a motion to replace one male member with Susan Codone, an engineering professor and sexual abuse survivor whose personal story was featured in recently released ABC report.

Xavier Torrado, secretary of the Southern Baptist branch in Puerto Rico, said additional training and new resources that were approved to combat sexual misconduct were vital. "We've known for many years that the pastors didn't have the skills or the resources or the knowledge of how to address this," said Torrado, whose job will now include teaching ministers about the new



Jules Woodson, right, of Colorado Springs, Colo., hands out flyers while demonstrating outside the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting Tuesday, June 11, 2019, in Birmingham, Ala.

Associated Press

measures.

Christie Crawford, a mother of five whose husband Matt Crawford is a pastor at a two-campus church in Tallahassee, Florida, said the denomination's actions this week would let congregations know that protecting children from abuse is both important and required, as is reporting possible misconduct.

"I think that what we've done and said will empower people," she said. "It will cause people to be more vocal at the local church level if they see things that make them uncomfortable."

Crawford's church, City Church Tallahassee, already has requirements including background checks and a six-month waiting period for anyone wanting to volunteer with minors, she said. "The world that we live in ... is a place where all parents have to be vigilant because of the dangers that are lurking," Crawford said.

The SBC's meeting comes

as U.S. Catholic bishops convene in Baltimore to address a widening sex-abuse crisis in the Catholic Church, the largest denomination in the U.S. It had 76.3 million members as of last year — down from 81.2 million in 2005.

The Southern Baptist Convention says it had 14.8 million members in 2018, down about 192,000 from the previous year.

Sex abuse already was a high-profile issue at the SBC's 2018 national meeting in Dallas, after which Greear formed an advisory

group to draft recommendations on how to confront the problem.

Pressure on the SBC intensified in recent months, however, due in part to articles by the Houston Chronicle and San Antonio Express-News asserting that hundreds of Southern Baptist clergy and staff have been accused of sexual misconduct over the past 20 years, including dozens who returned to church duties, while leaving more than 700 victims with little in the way of justice or apologies. □

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House panel votes to hold top U.S. officials in contempt

By **MATTHEW DALY** and **MICHAEL BALSAMO**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House committee voted Wednesday to hold two top Trump administration officials in contempt of Congress for failing to comply with subpoenas for documents related to a decision adding a citizenship question to the 2020 census.

The Democratic-controlled House Oversight Committee voted 24-15 to advance contempt measures against Attorney General William Barr and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross. Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan, who has said he supports an impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump, was the sole Republican to join with Democrats.

The vote sends the contempt measures to the full House, although congressional leaders could go directly to court to try to force compliance with the subpoenas under a resolution approved earlier this week.

The committee's action marks an escalation of Democratic efforts to use their House majority to aggressively investigate the inner workings of the Trump administration.

The vote came as the White House asserted executive privilege on the matter Wednesday. The Justice Department said officials had "engaged in good-faith efforts" to satisfy the committee's oversight needs and labeled the contempt vote "unnecessary and premature."

It was not clear what would happen next. A resolution approved by the House on Tuesday empowers committee chairs to sue top Trump administration offi-



House Oversight and Reform Committee Chairman Elijah E. Cummings, D-Md., listens to an objection by Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, left, the ranking member, as they debate whether to hold Attorney General William Barr and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross in contempt for failing to turn over subpoenaed documents related to the Trump administration's decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, June 12, 2019.

Associated Press

cials to force compliance with congressional subpoenas without a vote of the full House, as long as they have approval from a bipartisan group of House leaders.

Democrats fear the citizenship question will reduce census participation in immigrant-heavy communities and result in a severe undercount of minority voters. They say they want specific documents to determine why Ross added the question to the 2020 census and contend the administration has declined to provide the documents despite repeated requests. The oversight panel's chairman, Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, said he was saddened by the vote, but called it an important step to assert Congress' constitutional authority to serve as a check on executive power.

"The census is something that is so very, very important," Cummings told re-

porters after the vote. "It goes to the bedrock of our very society and our democracy. We need to make sure the census is counted and counted accurately."

A spokeswoman for Barr said the committee's vote defied logic and undermined Congress' credibility with the American people. "Despite the committee's political games, the department will remain focused on its critical work safeguarding the American people and upholding the rule of law," spokeswoman Kerri Kupec said.

Ross said in a statement that the committee's vote "demonstrated its scorn for the Constitution." He accused Democrats of "continually refusing to engage in the constitutionally mandated accommodation process."

The administration has turned over more than 17,000 of pages of documents and Ross testified

for nearly seven hours in March.

The Justice Department said two senior officials were interviewed by committee staff and said officials were working to produce tens of thousands of additional pages of relevant documents.

Cummings disputed that account and said most of the documents turned over to the committee had already been made public.

"We must protect the integrity of the census and we must stand up for Congress' authority under the Constitution to conduct meaningful oversight," Cummings said before Wednesday's vote.

The administration's refusal to turn over requested documents "does not appear to be an effort to engage in good-faith negotiations or accommodations," he said. "Instead, it appears to be another example of the administration's blanket defiance of Congress'

constitutionally mandated responsibilities." Trump has pledged to "fight all the subpoenas" issued by Congress and says he won't work on legislative priorities, such as infrastructure, until Congress halts investigations of his administration.

Ross told the committee the March 2018 decision to add the question was based on a Justice Department request to help it enforce the Voting Rights Act. Cummings disputed that, citing documents unearthed last week suggesting that the real reason the administration sought to add the citizenship question was to help officials gerrymander legislative districts in overtly partisan and racist ways.

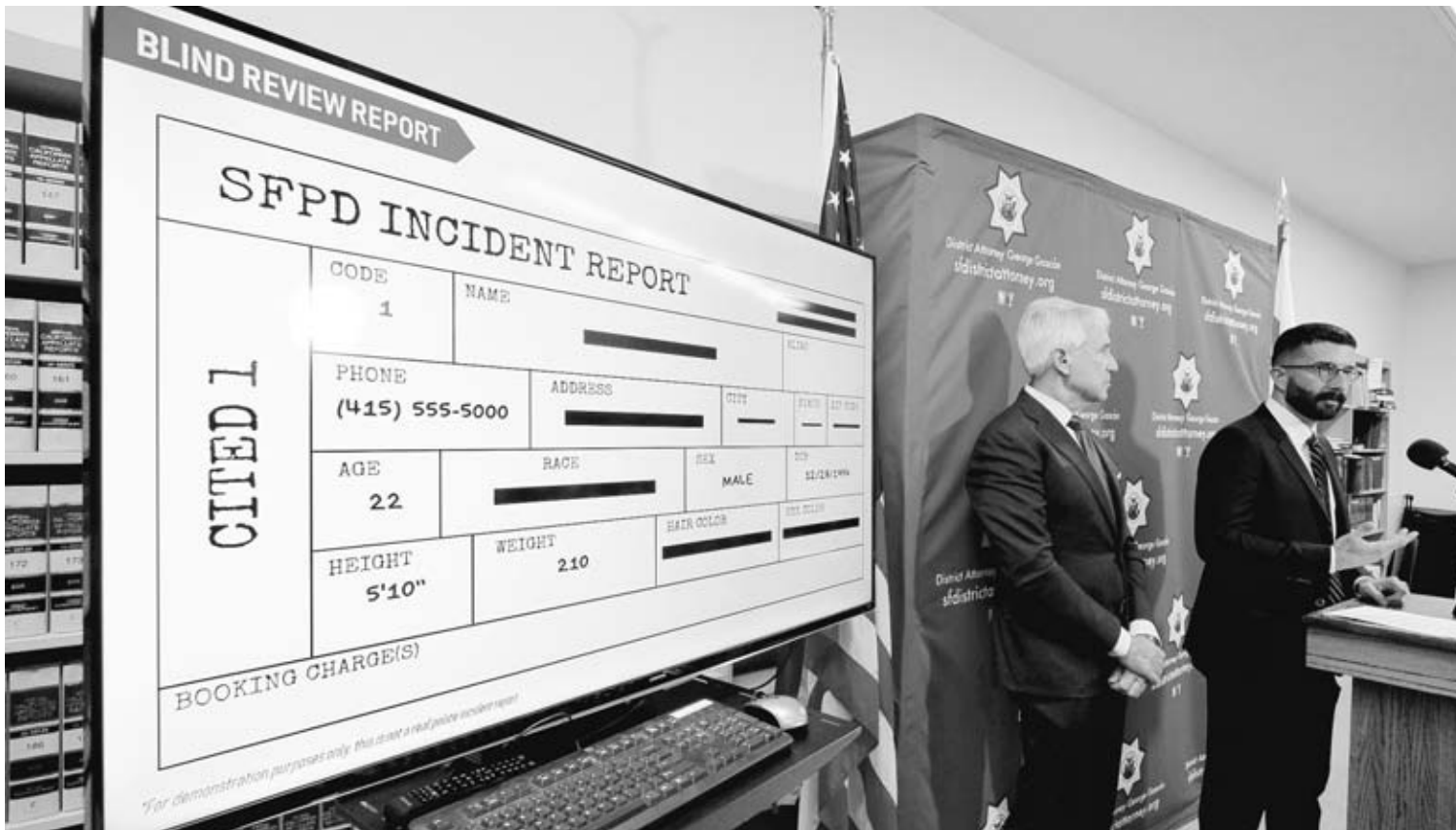
Computer files from North Carolina redistricting expert Tom Hofeller include detailed calculations that lay out gains Republicans would see in Texas by basing legislative districts on the number of voting-age citizens rather than the total population.

Hofeller, a Republican operative who died last year, said in the documents that GOP gains would be possible only if the census asked every household about its members' immigration status for the first time since 1950.

The Supreme Court is considering the citizenship question. A ruling is expected by the end of the month.

"I think it's totally ridiculous that we would have a census without asking" about citizenship, Trump said Wednesday, "but the Supreme Court is going to be ruling on it soon. I think when the census goes out ... you have the right to ask whether or not somebody is a citizen of the United States." □

San Francisco prosecutors turn to AI to reduce racial bias



With a blind police incident report displayed, San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon, left, and Alex Chohlas-Wood, Deputy Director, Stanford Computational Policy Lab, talk about the implementation of an artificial intelligence tool to remove potential for bias in charging decisions, during a news conference Wednesday, June 12, 2019, in San Francisco.

By JOCELYN GECKER

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In a first-of-its kind experiment, San Francisco prosecutors are turning to artificial intelligence to reduce racial bias in the courts, adopting a system that strips certain identifying details from police reports and leaves only key facts to govern charging decisions.

District Attorney George Gascon announced Wednesday that his office will begin using the technology in July to “take race out of the equation” when deciding whether to accuse suspects of a crime.

Criminal-justice experts say they have never heard of any project like it, and they applauded the idea as a creative, bold effort to make charging practices more colorblind.

Gascon’s office worked

with data scientists and engineers at the Stanford Computational Policy Lab to develop a system that takes electronic police reports and automatically removes a suspect’s name, race and hair and eye colors. The names of witnesses and police officers will also be removed, along with specific neighborhoods or districts that could indicate the race of those involved. “The criminal-justice system has had a horrible impact on people of color in this country, especially African Americans, for generations,” Gascon said in an interview ahead of the announcement. “If all prosecutors took race out of the picture when making charging decisions, we would probably be in a much better place as a nation than we are today.”

Gascon said his goal was

to develop a model that could be used elsewhere, and the technology will be offered free to other prosecutors across the country. “I really commend them, it’s a brave move,” said Lucy Lang, a former New York City prosecutor and executive director of the Institute for Innovation in Prosecution at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. The technology relies on humans to collect the initial facts, which can still be influenced by racial bias. Prosecutors will make an initial charging decision based on the redacted police report. Then they will look at the entire report, with details restored, to see if there are any extenuating reasons to reconsider the first decision, Gascon said.

Lang and other experts said they look forward to seeing the results and that they expect the system to be a work in progress.

“Hats off for trying new stuff,” said Phillip Atiba Goff, president for the Center for Policing Equity. “There are so many contextual factors that might indicate race and ethnicity that it’s hard to imagine how even a human could take that all

out.” A 2017 study commissioned by the San Francisco district attorney found “substantial racial and ethnic disparities in criminal justice outcomes.” African Americans represented only 6% of the county’s population but accounted for 41% of arrests between 2008 and 2014.

The study found “little evidence of overt bias against any one race or ethnic group” among prosecutors who process criminal offenses. But Gascon said he wanted to find a way to help eliminate an implicit bias that could be triggered by a suspect’s race, an ethnic-sounding name or a crime-ridden neighborhood where they were arrested.

After it begins, the program will be reviewed weekly, said Maria Mckee, the DA’s director of analytics and research.

The move comes after San Francisco last month became the first U.S. city to ban the use of facial recognition by police and other city agencies. The decision reflected a growing backlash against AI technology as cities seek to regulate surveillance by municipal agencies. □

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Maine becomes 8th state to legalize assisted suicide

By **MARINA VILLENEUVE**
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP) — Maine legalized medically assisted suicide on Wednesday, becoming the eighth state to allow terminally ill people to end their lives with prescribed medication.

Democratic Gov. Janet Mills, who had previously said she was unsure about the bill, signed it in her office.

Oregon was the first state to legalize such assistance, in 1997, and it took over a decade for the next state, Washington, to follow suit. While still controversial, assisted suicide legislation is winning increasing acceptance in the United States, and this year at least 18 states considered such measures.

Maine's bill would allow doctors to prescribe terminally ill people a fatal dose of medication. The bill declares that obtaining or administering life-ending medication is not suicide under state law, thereby legalizing the practice often called medically assisted suicide.

The proposal had failed once in a statewide vote and at least seven previous times in the Legislature. The current bill passed by just one vote in the House, and a slim margin in the Senate. The signing Wednesday was a relief to Mainers such as Staci Fowler, 47, who's taken on the fight for such laws in honor of her late friend Rebecca VanWormer.



In this Feb. 11, 2019 file photo, Maine Gov. Janet Mills delivers her State of the Budget address to the Legislature at the State House in Augusta, Maine.

Associated Press

VanWormer, whose breast cancer spread to her bones, had pushed for such a bill in 2015 — two years before she died in 2017.

"This is what she wanted," said Fowler, an educational consultant in Gardiner. "And now everybody has the option that she didn't have."

Maine joins seven other states and Washington, D.C., that have similar laws, according to the Death With Dignity National Center and the Death With Dignity Political Fund. The states are: California, Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, and New Jersey, whose governor signed the legislation earlier this year.

Montana doesn't have a specific law on the books, but the state Supreme Court ruled in 2009 that doctors could use a patient's request for life-ending medication as a defense against criminal

charges.

Maine's population has the oldest median age, and, as in other states, the proposal has exposed divisions that defied party lines.

Supporters, including Democrats and a small group of Republicans, say the terminally ill should have the right to choose a peaceful end.

"Assisted suicide is a dangerous public policy that puts the most vulnerable people in society at risk for abuse, coercion and mistakes," said Matt Valliere, Executive Director of Patients Rights Action Fund, an advocacy group. "It also provides profit-driven insurance companies perverse incentives to offer a quick death, rather than costly continuing quality care."

The bill's Democratic sponsor said the latest language addresses criticism of past efforts that have failed in Maine. □



In this Dec. 20, 2018, file photo the 1935 statue of Robert E. Lee, right, and a young soldier by sculptor Alexander Phimister, sits in storage at Hensley Field, the former Naval Air Station on the west side of Mountain Creek Lake in Dallas.

Associated Press

Dallas law firm places winning bid for Robert E. Lee statue

By **CLARICE SILBER**
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A Dallas-based law firm placed the winning \$1.435 million bid for a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee that the city put in an online auction almost two years after removing it from a state park.

Holmes Firm PC made the top offer for the bronze sculpture, according to documents from the Dallas City Council. It was among several Lee monuments around the U.S. that were removed from public view amid the fallout over racial violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017.

The firm, owned by Ronald L. Holmes, has not said what it plans to do with the statue or whether it is representing someone else who wanted the artwork depicting Lee and another soldier on horses.

Holmes' firm, which was identified in the auction as "LawDude," did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Wednesday.

Dallas Assistant City Manager Joey Zapata said the city does not have any plans to auction other Confederate symbols and the money for sculpture would go back into its contingency fund.

The assistant city manager said a task force that reviewed the sculpture along with other monuments and places in Dallas named for Confederate leaders recommended finding a local museum or educational institution to take them.

The assistant city manager said a Confederate monument near the city's convention center that is set for removal will be disassembled and put into storage. □



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Some rural states double down on attracting new residents

By LISA RATHKE
Associated Press

BENNINGTON, Vt. (AP)

— With jobs unfilled and young people moving away, some rural states are doubling down on efforts to attract new blood by expanding programs that offer incentives to live there.

Over the past decade, states including South Dakota, Maine and Vermont have lured new residents with financial incentives or job help in areas that need a boost. Vermont launched its program last year, and it's already beefing up for 2020. Vermont's existing program seeks to entice new residents by paying them up to \$10,000 over two years to move to a state with an aging population of about 626,000 and a low unemployment rate. So far in its first year, the program has pulled in 33 new remote workers and their families — amounting to a total of 87 new residents.

"This far surpassed our expectation of how successful it would be," said Michael Schirling, secretary of the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Even though Schirling is now optimistic about the effort, some wonder if the relatively small number of new residents will make much of an impact.

Economist and recently retired University of Vermont professor Art Woolf says Vermont would need to increase its population by several thousand to make a sizeable difference in the state's economy.

Either way, Vermont is looking to keep recruiting. Starting in January, instead of just accepting applicants who work remotely for out-of-state companies, Vermont will pay up to \$7,500 in expenses to people who



In this May 15, 2019, photo, Jonathan and Beth Dow stand in their backyard in Bennington, Vt.

Associated Press

come to work for local firms. A \$5,000 grant was instrumental in getting Beth Dow and her husband to move from Colorado to Vermont. "Moving across the country is really expensive and I don't think we would have made the jump without knowing we could get reimbursed," said Dow, a commercial property claims adjuster. Dow now works from her Bennington home and the couple recently signed a lease to open an art gallery, which they dreamed of doing in Denver but said they couldn't afford to do out there.

Rural areas across the country have been losing residents as people move to areas where there's more economic opportunity and more to do, Woolf said.

Woolf said in areas with stagnant populations, tax revenues grow slowly while demands for services rise, and businesses have a

hard time expanding. Instead of offering financial incentives, a three-year-old private nonprofit organization called Live and Work in Maine markets the state and its jobs to prospective residents. This year it will be focusing on luring back former Mainers.

"There are lots of jobs in Maine to take advantage of if you want the quality of life that we have to offer," said Nate Wildes, executive director, who said businesses are noticing the campaign is working. It helped draw Eric and Elizabeth Smith to Maine, when they wanted to get out of the Philadelphia suburbs, change their lifestyle and be closer to wilderness. It wasn't hard for Eric Smith, 32, a computer engineer, to get a job once they moved in late 2016. Elizabeth Smith had already worked remotely as a food scientist.

"The change was profound

and pretty immediate. I wouldn't give it up for anything. Our life is just so much better," Eric Smith said. Wyoming, which faces some of the same challenges as Vermont, has helped about 70 people return to the state since 2015 by assisting in their job searches. It takes a special mindset to live in Wyoming, said Tyler Stockton, of Wyoming's Department of Workforce Service.

"Wyoming is a little different than a lot of other places. There are a lot of towns with very few people, and then it's a long way to cultural hubs," he said.

About a year after the effort was launched, Wyoming's economy had a downturn, so the program was put on the back burner. The state is now reworking it.

"What we're doing is asking the people in Wyoming what skill sets they need and then trying to find those people," Stockton said.

The Wyoming effort is based in part on the Dakota Roots program in South Dakota started in 2006 to help natives move back by helping them find jobs. South Dakota has since expanded the assistance to anyone who wants to relocate there, helping about 4,800 people and their families so far. The state's labor and regulation secretary, Marcia Hultman, said in an email that Dakota Roots makes job seekers "aware of the great career opportunities and quality of life South Dakota has to offer while growing the labor pool for our state's businesses."

In Nebraska, the chamber of commerce in North Platte has had "mild success" with helping employers recruit workers, according to the North Platte Area Chamber of Commerce. The program has helped attract 13 professionals, including four attorneys, a physical therapist, a brewmaster and a minister to the area since it started a year and half ago.

Matt Christie, who grew up in a rural area, said he was ready to get out of his Boston suburb when he applied to the Vermont program. He said the Vermont house he and his wife purchased and the tiny community of South Strafford quickly felt more like home than any of the other cities he recently lived in across the West Coast and in the Boston area.

"I'm so pleased that I did it," said Christie, who moved in early January.

Their now-toddler son has blossomed since they moved to Vermont, where Christie goes to town and school board meetings and has joined the energy committee. "This is roots, this is the beginning of roots and it felt really nice," he said. □

Britain to intensify fight against climate change

By GREGORY KATZ

FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's outgoing prime minister on Wednesday announced plans to eliminate the country's net contribution to climate change by 2050 as Europe's effort to slow global warming picked up speed.

Theresa May said the plan will be put before Parliament later in the day. The amendment to the 2008 Climate Change Act will intensify Britain's push to drastically reduce carbon emissions ahead of a European Union summit next week that's expected to address the bloc's effort to tackle global warming. Though Britain plans to leave the EU, there is broad cross-party support in Parliament for the international fight against climate change.

"Standing by is not an option," she said. "Reaching net zero by 2050 is an ambitious target, but it is crucial that we achieve it to ensure we protect our planet for future generations." The government's Committee on Climate Change says the change will help public health by reducing air and noise pollution and also help biodiversity.



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May during a visit to Imperial College where she saw machinery which converts carbon dioxide into oxygen, in London, Wednesday, June 12, 2019.

Associated Press

Scientists say the world must stop pumping more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere no later than the middle of the century if it wants to stop average global temperatures from rising more than 1.5 degrees C (2.7 F) compared to pre-industrial times.

The ambitious goal, set in the 2015 Paris accord, is seen as the best chance of preventing potentially catastrophic effects of climate change, from sea level rise

to increases in extreme weather.

While experts agree it won't be possible to eliminate all emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, "net zero" would ensure that an equal amount of gas would be captured by natural means such as forests or artificial systems that suck carbon out of the atmosphere.

May's announcement means Britain will likely leapfrog other major in-

dustrialized countries, such as France and Germany, which are working on similar legislation to be passed this year.

Under President Donald Trump, the United States has backed away from the entire Paris agreement, though some U.S. states and cities have set their own targets for legislation for cutting carbon emissions over the coming decades.

Smaller European coun-

tries, including the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden already have the "net zero" target enshrined in domestic laws, some of which are more ambitious than the U.K. proposal.

One difficulty has been keeping track of the efforts made by various countries to reach their emissions goals. Sweden's environmental agencies Wednesday launched a platform that allows citizens to monitor the country's progress toward the net-zero emissions target by 2045.

The online dashboard displays the country's carbon emissions data by sector and allows users to view various efforts in place in Sweden, as well as planned actions toward CO2 reduction. Users can zoom in from Sweden's national carbon emissions in the transport sector all the way down to local policies aimed at increasing the use of public transport.

"We're talking about the transformation of all society," said Ola Altera, the head of the Swedish Climate Policy Council, who says visualization gives a common picture of "where we are, where we are going, and how we are doing." □

Catalan separatists defend actions at end of Spanish trial

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — A rebellion and sedition trial resulting from a push to take the Catalonia region out of Spain wrapped up Wednesday with prosecuted leaders arguing they exercised their democratic rights by holding a banned independence referendum.

The dozen ex-officials and activists on trial, who hope to avoid prison sentences, told the Spanish Supreme Court in Madrid that long-running secession efforts in Catalonia were part of a political conflict with national authorities and didn't belong in a courtroom.

"Casting a vote cannot be considered a crime," former Catalan vice president Oriol Junqueras said in his final statement, adding that



In this Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019 file photo, pro independence demonstrators hold photos of imprisoned and exiled pro-independence political leaders, during a demonstration in Barcelona, Spain.

Associated Press

the 2017 secession bid for which he was charged had been non-violent.

"The best for everyone would be to place this issue back in the sphere of poli-

tics ... which it never should have left," Junqueras said as four months of hearings in the high-profile case drew to a close.

A decision in the case is ex-

pected in several months. Catalonia's independence push triggered Spain's worst constitutional crisis in decades as the Spanish government dissolved Catalonia's regional parliament, removed the region's government from office and transferred their duties to Madrid.

The defendants have become a potent symbol for the Catalan independence movement, and the trial's outcome could set the tone for Spanish politics for years to come.

State prosecutors are seeking a 25-year sentence for Junqueras for rebellion, which under Spanish law requires proving that violence was used to disrupt the country's constitutional order.

Prosecutors accuse the defendants of trying to stage a coup. Most defense lawyers argued their clients were, at the most, guilty of disobedience, which could mean fines and a possible ban from holding public office.

The Constitutional Court outlawed the October 2017 ballot, which Junqueras and the other defendants played a part in organizing. It said Spain's constitution doesn't allow one of its regions to break away.

Other prominent secessionists in the trial are the former speaker of Catalonia's regional parliament, Carme Forcadell, activist-turned-politician Jordi Sánchez and activist Jordi Cuixart. Cuixart said the defendants are political prisoners. □

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EU asks Italy to better explain debt or face legal action

By LORNE COOK
FRANCES D'EMILIO
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Europe's economy commissioner on Wednesday urged the Italian government to quickly provide any new information it might have to explain its high debt levels or face the prospect of imminent legal action.

Pierre Moscovici told reporters that "we stand ready to take into account any new elements that Italy may put forward, but let's not waste time."

"The ball is in Italy's court," he said.

The European Commission, which supervises budget plans in the 28 member states, says that Italy's public debt stood at 132.2% of GDP in 2018, far above the EU's 60% limit. Debt is forecast to rise to 135% this year.

Moscovici said the commission is "committed to an



European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs Pierre Moscovici pauses before speaking during a media conference at EU headquarters in Brussels, Wednesday, June 12, 2019.

intelligent and flexible application of our fiscal rules," but he added that "no one should be in doubt that we will apply those rules if the criteria are not fulfilled."

The commission believes an "excessive deficit procedure" should be launched against Italy, and the EU's financial economics committee agrees that action is warranted. EU member

states must agree for it to happen, and Moscovici expects eurozone countries to back the commission's findings at a finance ministers' meeting Thursday.

Italy could face billions of euros (dollars) in fines, although that is unlikely.

The threat of action comes at a time of rising tensions between Brussels and the Italian government, in par-

ticular Deputy Premier Matteo Salvini, who has been emboldened by his right-wing League party's strong gains in the May EU elections. Italy's debt load is the second-highest in Europe, after Greece. Many fear new financial turmoil in Europe should Italy lose control of spending, but the government in Rome says it must spend more to jumpstart growth after years of austerity.

"Italy's debt ratio is one of the highest in the world," Moscovici said, and noted that debt servicing alone was equivalent to about 1,000 euros (\$1,132) a year for every Italian citizen.

"The high debt is a major vulnerability for the economy and it's in Italy's interest to tackle this," he said.

In Rome, Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte led a huddle early Wednesday over the looming possibility of EU disciplinary action. He con-

ferred with his two populist deputy premiers, Salvini and Luigi Di Maio, joined by Economy Minister Giovanni Tria, who has been trying to satisfy the EU and defend his government's agenda. Salvini emerged combative as usual toward Brussels. Speaking on a video on his Facebook feed, he said the commission was "delegitimized by the vote of millions of Europeans," and that Brussels "can't take decisions or impose choices or sanctions on governments and peoples."

He said the government wants to dialogue with Europe "as equals and with equal dignity." Salvini denied the government would take unpopular debt-fighting measures like taxing Italians' savings. Instead he pushed for broader tax amnesties, which he prefers to call "fiscal peace" initiatives aimed at raking in revenues. □

Ex-Algerian PM jailed in sweeping anti-corruption campaign

By AOMAR OUALI
Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — Former Algerian Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia was imprisoned Wednesday by a Supreme Court judge investigating corruption, taken in a police van to a prison on the outskirts of the capital.

Numerous journalists saw the van leave the Supreme Court for the prison of El Harrach after Ouyahia made an hours-long appearance before the investigating judge. Video posted on Twitter by several Algerian sites showed crowds near the prison pounding



In this Monday, Sept. 17, 2018 file photo, Algerian Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia listens to a question during a press conference in Algiers, Algeria.

on the van, which was escorted by police. Ouyahia, replaced in

March, was the latest person held in a sweeping anti-corruption campaign

amid a people's revolt to do away with the era led by ex-President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. He resigned April 2 after two decades in office under pressure from weekly anti-government demonstrations and the powerful army chief.

The former president's brother, Said Bouteflika, is among a raft of leading figures in government and industry jailed on charges of corruption. It is widely believed Said Bouteflika held the reins of power in Algeria after the president suffered a 2013 stroke that left him unable to speak clearly, partially paralyzed — and

rarely seen in public.

Two retired generals who headed top intelligence units also were jailed on corruption charges.

Ouyahia was not the only ordered to prison Wednesday. Abdelghani Zaalane, former public works and transport minister, also was sent to El Harrach prison, the state ENTV channel reported.

Ouyahia was a major figure for years in Algerian political life and served several times as prime minister. Like most of the other people detained in the corruption investigation, he was close to President Bouteflika. □

Sick Gaza child caught in Israeli permit system dies alone

By ISABEL DEBRE
FARES AKRAM

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — When Palestinian preschooler Aisha al-Lulu came out of brain surgery in a strange Jerusalem hospital room, she called out for her mother and father. She repeated the cry over and over, but her parents never came. Instead of a family member, Israeli authorities had approved a stranger to escort Aisha from the blockaded Gaza Strip to the east Jerusalem hospital. As her condition deteriorated, the child was returned to Gaza unconscious. One week later, she was dead.

A photo of Aisha smiling softly in her hospital bed, brown curls swaddled in bandages, drew an outpouring on social media. The wrenching details of her last days have shined a light on Israel's vastly complex and stringent system for issuing Gaza exit permits.

It is a bureaucracy that has Israeli and Palestinian authorities blaming each other for its shortfalls, while inflicting a heavy toll on Gaza's sick children and their parents.

"The most difficult thing is to leave your child in the unknown," said Waseem al-Lulu, Aisha's father. "Jerusalem is just an hour away, but it feels as though it is another planet."

So far this year, roughly half of applications for patient companion permits were rejected or left unanswered by Israel, according to the World Health Organization. That has forced over 600 patients, including some dozen children under 18, to make the trek out of the territory alone or without close family by their side.

The system stems from the Hamas militant group's takeover of Gaza in 2007, when it violently ousted the Western-backed Palestinian Authority. Israel and Egypt responded by imposing a blockade that tightly restricted movement in and out of Gaza.

The blockade, which Israel says is necessary to prevent



In this Monday, May 27, 2019 photo, Muna Awad, mother of 5-year-old Aisha al-Lulu, shows a photo of her daughter while in a Jerusalem hospital, at the family home in Bureij refugee camp in central Gaza Strip.

Hamas from arming, has precipitated a financial and humanitarian crisis in the enclave. For years, Gaza's 2 million residents have endured rising poverty and unemployment, undrinkable groundwater and frequent electricity outages. Public hospitals wrestle with chronic shortages of drugs and basic medical equipment. Israel blames Hamas, which it considers a terrorist group, for the crisis.

In what it portrays as a humanitarian gesture to help Gaza's civilians, Israel permits Palestinian patients to seek medical treatment at hospitals in Israel and the West Bank once they pass a series of bureaucratic hurdles. COGAT, the Israeli defense body that issues the permits, says it insists that all patients cross with an escort, usually a close relative, unless they wish to go alone or require immediate treatment that doesn't allow time for security screening.

In order to get a permit, patients must first submit a diagnosis to the West Bank-based Palestinian Health Ministry, proving that their treatment isn't available in Gaza. Then a Palestinian liaison requests exit permits from COGAT, which reviews the applications and passes them to Israel's Shin Bet security agency for

background checks.

According to WHO, the approval rate has plummeted in recent years.

It said that in 2012, Israel allowed in 93% of patients and 83% of their companions for treatment. For the month of April 2019, the figure stands at just 65% of patients and 52% of their companions.

A COGAT official disputed the figures, saying they don't take into account that the number of permit applications has grown as Gaza's health care system deteriorates, and that Israel has started issuing permits less regularly but for prolonged stays. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity under agency rules, said COGAT has tried to ease restrictions by designating a permit specifically for parents of child patients.

The agency said it issued 4,000 permits for patient escorts in the first quarter of 2019, including 1,398 for parents of sick children.

After being diagnosed with brain cancer, Aisha received immediate approval to get out of Gaza for what was hoped to be life-saving surgery. But when her parents approached the Palestinian Civil Affairs Commission for escort permits, their process ground to a halt.

Associated Press

To their bewilderment, Palestinian officials told them not to apply, saying it was too risky.

At 37, Waseem is below the age that Israel deems acceptable for swift entry on security grounds. Today, all men under 55 require extra screening, which means waiting, usually for months, according to Mor Efrat, the Gaza and West Bank director for Physicians for Human Rights Israel. As for Aisha's mother, Muna, a quirk of her upbringing in Egypt left her without an official Israeli-issued ID card required to receive a permit.

"We tell families to find a companion that won't give Israel any reason to refuse," said Osama Najar, spokesman for the Palestinian Health Ministry. "We want to save the child and, yes, that can mean sending them alone."

In this sense, the Palestinian Authority "acts as a subcontractor for Israel," said Efrat, forcing parents to make a difficult choice: delay their child's urgent care, or search for someone else that Israel would be more likely to let cross.

Aisha's parents said they scoured for alternatives, applying for an aunt and her 75-year-old grandmother, but Israel rejected both.

The girl's only remaining

hope, the Palestinian office told them, was to apply for as many older women as possible from their extended social network. A permit for Halima al-Ades, a remote family acquaintance whom Aisha had never met, was approved.

Muna said she had no choice but to sign COGAT's consent form and whisk her daughter out of Gaza for immediate treatment. She said the frustration of the sprawling bureaucracy, and the painful memory of her 5-year-old daughter crying for her on the phone during her last days, haunts her.

The Shin Bet declined to comment on the case. But in a statement, it emphasized Israel's security concerns about Gaza patients and their companions.

"The terrorist organizations in the Gaza Strip, headed by Hamas, are working tirelessly to cynically exploit the humanitarian and medical assistance provided by Israel," it said.

This means that Palestinians are often turned down without explanation or for reasons out of their control. "I feel confident telling you that most of these rejections are arbitrary," said Efrat, of Physicians for Human Rights Israel.

Israel denies any official change in policy.

Alon Eviatar, a former high-ranking official with COGAT, said the goal remains the same. "On the ground, this means to make daily life as difficult as possible for Hamas, without crossing the red line to humanitarian disaster," he said.

Eviatar acknowledged that the Israeli permit system was ineffective, inefficient and overburdened. "We are desperate for an alternative, to get Gaza to take care of itself and stop relying on Israel," he said.

Aisha's doctor in Jerusalem, Ahmad Khandaqji, said he has treated countless lone patients from Gaza over the past year, but that Aisha's story stuck with him. "She felt abandoned and betrayed," he said. "We saw how that directly impacted her recovery." □

Hong Kong police fire tear gas, rubber bullets at protesters

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters who had massed outside government headquarters Wednesday in opposition to a proposed extradition bill that has become a lightning rod for concerns over greater Chinese control and erosion of civil liberties in the territory. The afternoon violence marked a major escalation in the semi-autonomous Chinese city's biggest political crisis in years. It came after protesters earlier in the day forced the delay of a legislative debate over the bill, which would allow criminal suspects in Hong Kong to be sent for trial in mainland China.

The overwhelmingly young crowd had overflowed onto a major downtown road as they overturned barriers and tussled with police outside the government building. But when some appeared to have breached the police cordon around the building, the police launched their response, which also included firing pepper spray and water hoses.

Earlier, a curt government statement said the legislative session scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. would be "changed to a later time." Officials gave no indication of when that would be and Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam canceled a scheduled news briefing.

The delay appeared to have been at least a temporary victory for the bill's opponents, whose protests are the largest since pro-democracy demonstrations closed down parts of the Asian financial center for more than three months in 2014. Some businesses closed for the day, and labor strikes and class boycotts were called.

The protests are a challenge to China's ruling Communist Party and President Xi Jinping, who has in the past said he would not tolerate Hong Kong being used as a base to challenge the party's authority. But they are also



Riot police fire tear gas to protesters outside the Legislative Council in Hong Kong, Wednesday, June 12, 2019.

giving vent to young Hong Kongers alienated by a political process dominated by the territory's economic elite.

At a brief news conference held as the chaos swirled just outside, Police Commissioner Stephen Lo Wai-chung called the demonstration a riot. That could mean long jail terms for anyone arrested, adding to concerns that Hong Kong's government is using public disturbance laws to intimidate political protesters.

"We condemn such irresponsible behavior," Lo said. "There's no need to hurt innocent people to express your opinions," he said, adding that people should not "do anything they will regret for the rest of their lives."

Protesters were seen throwing rocks, bottles, metal barricades and other projectiles at police.

Police spokesman Gong Weng Chun defended the decision to use tear gas and other non-lethal weapons, saying officers wouldn't have had to do so if they weren't facing a serious threat that could seriously injure or even kill them.

The state of the legislative process remained unclear following the violence, which had largely ended by about 5 p.m. after police herded demonstrators

across a pedestrian bridge. Traffic in one of the busiest parts of the city remained blocked, however, and several hundred protesters seemed in no hurry to leave.

Earlier in the day, protesters said they hoped the blockade would persuade Lam's administration to shelve the proposed amendments.

"We want the government to just set the legislation aside and not bring it back," said a protester who gave only his first name, Marco, to avoid possible repercussions from authorities.

Another protester, who gave her name only as King, also out of fear of repercussions, said the protest was a watershed moment for Hong Kong's young generation.

"We have to stand up for our rights or they will be taken away," she said.

Dressed in black T-shirts and jeans, many protesters appeared undaunted by demands to disperse from police.

The demonstrators also appeared mindful of Beijing's growing use of electronic surveillance such as facial recognition technology to build dossiers on those it considers politically unreliable, with many donning surgical masks to hide their features, as well as to safeguard against tear gas.

Such protests are never tolerated in mainland China, and Hong Kong residents can face travel bans and other repercussions if they cross the border.

"Most of these protesters don't expect the government to compromise. They just want to express their own opinions," said Joseph Cheng, a long-time observer of Chinese and Hong Kong politics now retired from the City University of Hong Kong.

"The anger is still there and the anger will burst again at the next opportunity," Cheng said.

Under its "one country, two systems" framework, Hong Kong was supposed to be guaranteed the right to retain its own social, legal and political systems for 50 years following its handover from British rule in 1997. However, China's ruling Communist Party has been seen as increasingly reneging on that agreement by forcing through unpopular legal changes.

The government pushed ahead with plans to present the amendments to the legislature on Wednesday despite a weekend protest by hundreds of thousands of people that was the territory's largest political demonstration in more than a decade.

Lam has consistently defended the legislation as

necessary to close legal loopholes with other countries and territories. A vote is scheduled on June 20.

At regular briefing Wednesday, China's Foreign Ministry repeated its support for the bill. Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang also denied Beijing has been interfering in the city's affairs in a way that violates agreements made when Hong Kong was handed back to China.

"Hong Kong people's rights and freedoms have been fully guaranteed in accordance with law," he said.

The protests are widely seen as reflecting growing apprehension about relations with the Communist Party-ruled mainland, where Xi has said he has zero tolerance for those demanding greater self-rule for Hong Kong.

Critics believe the extradition legislation would put Hong Kong residents at risk of being entrapped in China's judicial system, in which opponents of Communist Party rule have been charged with economic crimes or ill-defined national security offenses, and would not be guaranteed free trials.

Lam said the government has considered concerns from the private sector and altered the bill to improve human rights safeguards. She said without the changes, Hong Kong would risk becoming a haven for fugitives. She emphasized that extradition cases would be decided by Hong Kong courts.

Opponents of the proposed extradition amendments say the changes would significantly compromise Hong Kong's legal independence, long viewed as one of the crucial differences between the territory and mainland China.

Hong Kong currently limits extraditions to jurisdictions with which it has existing agreements and to others on an individual basis. China has been excluded from those agreements because of concerns over its judicial independence and human rights record. □

Panama: Former President Martinelli receives house arrest

By KATHIA MARTINEZ

Associated Press

PANAMA (AP) - Panamanian President Ricardo Martinelli, accused of political espionage during his administration, spent Wednesday from prison to confinement, according to a judicial measure questioned by some of the alleged victims.

The court of three judges handling the case gave the order in response to a request from the defense on the eve of a year of preventive detention since Martinelli was extradited by the United States to respond to justice in his native Panama. The measure does not stop the trial that takes place since his return. The Judicial Body reported in its Twitter account that the court "orders the cessation of provisional detention of the former president of the republic for the period of one year and imposes the measure of domiciliary deposit." Martinelli was transferred early from the courtroom to his home, where hours later he was seen outside waving and carrying a puppy. The opposition Balbina Herrera, one of the alleged



In this Nov. 19, 2018 file photo, Panama's former President Ricardo Martinelli answers journalists questions as he raises his handcuffed hands, holding a book, while escorted by police to a hearing at the Supreme Court in Panama City.

victims of the so-called "punctures," said the ruling creates a precedent for other cases and that creates the risk that the former president will disregard the process from now on. He said that Martinelli refused before his arrest in the United States in 2017 to appear before Panamanian justice.

"For us, there is a danger of flight," Herrera said in state-

ments to local television. According to the defense, the court prohibited Martinelli from using social networks, making statements to the media and withdrew his passport to prevent him from leaving the country. Also, he will have surveillance in his house in a well-off area of the capital and must receive authorization for his medical check-ups. "Is an advance. We are

Associated Press pleased, "the wife of the former president, Marta Linares, told the media outside the courtroom. The defense, however, sought that Martinelli be allowed to mobilize nationally or what is called "country by jail." The court scheduled a hearing to resolve appeals on Friday. The 67-year-old supermarket magnate, who governed from 2009 to 2014,

was repatriated from Miami on June 11 last year. Since then, he was detained in a jail outside the capital while the oral trial was being held, which is at the witness presentation stage.

Martinelli is accused of spending millions of dollars inappropriately for the purchase from Israel of sophisticated equipment with which he would have intercepted the illegal communications of at least 150 people.

Among those presumed to be affected are President Juan Carlos Varela, a brother of his who is a deputy, as well as several figures of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the largest of the opposition and whose candidate Laurentino Cortizo won the presidential election on May 5; some journalists and union leaders and civil society.

"It is a Solomonian measure," said human rights activist Magaly Castillo, referring to the fact that the judges took more than 11 hours to decree a change of precautionary measure that probably does not fully satisfy either party. "It is not a case any, nor easy". □

Mexico says Guard deployment beginning, forms migrant team

By MARCO UGARTE

MARÍA VERZA

Associated Press

TAPACHULA, Mexico (AP)

— Mexican officials said Tuesday they are beginning deployment of the country's new National Guard for immigration enforcement, an accelerated commitment of a 6,000-strong force made as part of an agreement with the United States to head off threatened U.S. tariffs on imports from Mexico.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and Foreign Relations Secretary Marcelo Ebrard also announced that a team of five officials, including a general and a prison director, has been formed to implement the immigration plan.

Ebrard said that Gen. Vicente Antonio Hernández Sánchez, commander of



Mexican marines ride in the back of a pick up truck as they escort the caravan carrying Mexico's Minister of Defense, in Tapachula, Mexico, Tuesday, June 11, 2019.

the Tapachula military zone near the border with Guatemala, will begin a tour of the south "to speed up the deployment in the area." The main objective is to register migrants, offer them options for regularizing their immigration status

and return those who don't want to register, he added. The Associated Press has not yet seen any National Guard deployment in Tapachula, where soldiers and federal police have been working to support immigration agents. At the

Suchiate River that forms the border between the two countries, the usual drip-drip of irregular crossings by small groups on rudimentary rafts continued. Also Tuesday, Interior Secretary Olga Sánchez Cordero said the National Guard will not resemble the U.S. Border Patrol in the sense that it will work to regularize immigration flows, not stop it, and be deployed throughout the country.

Ebrard did not mention detentions, which have risen notably in recent months, but said there is a need to expand and improve overcrowded immigration facilities that operate as de facto detention centers. He said later Tuesday at a news conference that the deployment would be "along the entire frontier." Another deployment is go-

ing to the border with the United States to attend to migrants who have been returned to Mexico while their asylum claims are processed in U.S. courts.

As part of the deal reached last Friday with Washington, Mexico agreed to an expansion of the program known as Migrant Protection Protocol, though the United States has run into its own logistical obstacles to ramping it up.

Ebrard said it would be expanded from the current three border points to three more that will be decided in talks with the U.S. officials this week.

There have been more than 11,000 returns by migrants to Mexico under MPP since it launched in January, according to the most recent figures from the Mexican government. □

LOCAL



Rage Silver: Find Your Own World of Jewelry



"The best feeling to me is to see someone happy inside and outside because of my jewelry", says Marny de L'isle, owner of the hip stores Rage Silver. Are you looking for a perfect gift for your love ones or yourself, go here as you cannot go wrong. Cool European brands, known American jewelry and an outshining Caribbean design will for sure catch your taste. Rage Silver has an amazing store at Palm Beach Plaza and another gem at Renaissance Marketplace in Oranjestad.

Marny studied fashion design and that is visible in the store. Her collection reflects excellent taste and translates itself into hip brands like Uno de 50 from Spain which is a rebel in silver world. Big chunky jewelry that is out-of-the-box, edgy, all hand-crafted and silver-plated with a thick layer to remain affordable. "Initially they made only 50 pieces of one style but the brand became such a big hit that they expanded. These are statement pieces, showing character and confidence. They rock on a simple dress, you do not need anything else." Buddha to Buddha from Amsterdam is another attraction, so bring your piece from Europe back home. The brand Rebecca from Italy carries a delicate line and is very elegant. Right now they have great necklaces with in big the initial of your name, following the current trend. "Initials, words, quotes and signs are hip right now. Therefore we have Key Moments, stackable bracelets you can wear with anything that carry a hashtag and word like #Beautiful, #Strong or #Love. It empowers people." Another trend according to Marny is combining bracelets and necklaces. "Multi rings creating your own look and the same with bracelets and necklaces is hot right now. Rebecca is perfect for this as the delicate line is cute to layer and combine with non-brands. Fit it to your clothes and play with it." A regional line Rage Silver offers is Beck Jewels from Curacao, featuring handmade jewelry with Swarovski stones and fresh water pearls, filled with gold. "Absolutely a success, with this jewelry you make the difference."



City Chic with Caribbean Breeze

Both Rage Silver stores have their own character. "The clientele is very broad, from children to 65+ we have them buying. Renaissance Marketplace tends to attract a younger crowd due to more non-brands and casual jewelry while Palm Beach Plaza offers upscale brands as well." Besides jewelry the store at Palm Beach Plaza sells New York style, city chic clothing. "I just love New York and these clothing lines fit perfect to my jewelry lines. I focus on tops and dresses, all mixed fabrics and comfy to wear. Get your own look with a top and jewelry and BAM, you are ready."

The Story

The start of the store is actually a love story. "On a business trip for my job at that time I spent a few hours at Puerto Rico where I bought this silver bracelet for my now husband. It had little koko pellies on it and it was the perfect gift for him as he was a kite surfer/beach boy type. His friends were so enthusiastic about it that he told me: "Why don't we start a silver shop." With a little budget I started off selling rings of Mexican silver from the house and slowly expanded. Eventually we opened our first store together at Oranjestad. Today we got as far as two stores, one at Renaissance Marketplace and one at Palm Beach Plaza. We have a loyal local clientele as well as repeated visitors buying their favorite jewelry here. □

Renaissance Marketplace
Monday - Saturday 10 am - 8 pm
Telephone +297-2806226
ragejewelry@gmail.com

Palm Beach Plaza Mall
Monday - Saturday 10 am - 10 pm
Sundays - 5 pm - 10 pm
Telephone +297-5861244
ragejewelry@gmail.com



Hannah Lee: “Think Wabi Sabi!” The Art of Perfect Imperfection



Maastricht – The Creative Islander’s “Artist Edition Series” continues its road of featuring a range of diverse Aruban creative students and professionals locally and around the world. Today we are putting the spotlight on other dynamic industries within the Cultural & Creative Industries (CCIs), namely the Crafting Industry. Crafting over the years is becoming more popular in Aruba, especially now with the rise of local creative workshop spaces. Today, we are featuring Hannah Lee, a vibrant and artistic young professional who is sharing her love for art through her workshops with the community, which are located right here in Aruba. Read up all about Hannah’s story and find out how you can also participate in the crafting industry.

Hannah Lee, a 21 year old creative, was born in Aruba, but grew up both in Aruba and in the US. Besides crafting, Hannah enjoys exploring the island, watch Netflix shows, read books, photography, cooking and playing with the family’s beloved dogs, Fred and Trooper. In Aruba, Hannah attended Julianaschool, but then moved to the US with her family, where she attended the British School in Washington D.C. Not long after that she continued her education in Business Administration at the NOVA in Virginia. Fortunate for Hannah, part of her trajectory at NOVA meant obligatory creative classes. This is how Hannah’s love for clay and ceramics started. Part of her experience was not only practical, but included numerous visits to museums and galleries like the National Art Gallery, where students were encouraged to not only appreciate viewing art, but also discussing it. Hannah expressed: “I love to be expressive and creative. While living and studying in Washington DC and Virginia I had the opportunity to experience many of the museums and monuments they have over there. This has opened my eyes and mind to many new possibilities, ways of thinking and of gratitude”.

With Hannah’s move back to Aruba, it proved difficult to find a job. However, Hannah’s aunt noticed her talent for ceramics and encouraged Hannah to start giving pottery classes. Slowly but surely with tremendous support of her family, Hannah gained experience teaching the skills attached to her craft and has now developed a love for teaching art. “It is so satisfying to be able to help and give the tools to the participants of my workshops on how to express themselves with clay”.

Recently, the Creative Islander took notice of Hannah after she provided a ‘Wabi Sabi’ workshop to the elderly at ‘Club Kibrahacha 60+’. Hannah explained that her workshops are all about self-expression. The concept ‘Wabi Sabi’ stems from ancient Japanese philosophy and is used in a lot of artistic Asian craftsmanship and is the art of perfect imperfection. Her goal with her workshop was to show the elderly that imperfections are beautiful too. Overall Hannah said that, “all were eager to participate. A lot of talent waiting to be released. The final product was each a work of art. So much dedication and love went into them. I shared my clay skills with them and they shared their wisdom with me. I guided them with the tools for clay and they

created the art”.

Upbringing

Hannah’s upbringing was full of culture and opportunities for artistic expression. Besides crafting Hannah was also exposed to other art forms. Hannah took drawing and painting lessons from both her aunt, Rosanna Koelewijn-Tromp at her atelier La Bonne Vie and at Atelier ‘89 from one of Aruba’s gems, Mr. Nigel Matthew. She also, learned how to play the guitar from Mr. Ivan Jansen, and till this day music and composing plays an important part in her life.

Hannah credits her deep cultural upbringing to her parents who made artistic development a priority for their family. Together they loved visiting and attending different cultural events and institutions on the island, and did the same when they vacationed. Hannah’s mother, a very active professional in the cultural and educational sector in Aruba, provided Hannah with ample opportunities to volunteer. Examples of this include Hannah’s participation in the opening of the National Archeological Museum of Aruba located in Schelpstraat. Also, with the guidance of her talented aunt, Hannah participated in her first family art exhibition called “Art from the Heart” by the Tromp family and was their contribution to Aruba’s heritage. A complete success in the end. Also, Hannah was part of her aunt’s project at the ‘Centro di Cuido’ (Center of Care) for the elderly where she debuted her painting of the ‘Prikichi’ alongside 89 other painting by 107 different artists.

Remarkably, besides growing up with deep cultural and artistic roots, Hannah explained that her

parents always taught her about the importance of giving back to the community. Over the years both in Aruba and in the US, Hannah has been an active volunteer. Now that she is back in Aruba, she organized a volunteer pottery workshop for a group people from ‘Tra’l Merdia’ (a public after school care organization) and together with her aunt also organized a volunteer clay workshop at the Open House at Terrafuse Glas and Ceramics. In the US, Hannah volunteered at a Toy Drive during the Christmas season for families of War Veterans. “A truly humbling experience” she stated. Hannah also volunteered at The Kennedy Center and was another great experience.

Hannah is such a beautiful example of the influence of art in not only raising compassionate and driven human beings, but is a testament of how art can be used as a means of reciprocity. In a community that is continuously facing social challenges, art can be used as a stepping stone to reach out and add positivity and creativity in the lives of people. “This lesson about giving back I have learned from my parents I think is a valuable lesson in sharing and working towards a community and a culture of caring. The ‘me’ is important, but the ‘we’ get things done”.

Creative and Artistic Skill Development

Creativity in Hannah’s opinion is a very important skill to have. Hannah feels that she was always creative and artistic, but it wasn’t until she moved to America that she learned much more.

Continued on Page 15

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Continued from Page 14

Shae stated: "I learned how to work with new materials, learned about art, learned about literature. Those subjects opened my eyes to creativity and critical thinking. I believe if you possess art you can think more creatively and critically how to get to a solution. Art is important for the expression of feelings as well. Some children struggle to express themselves and art can be their stepstool/outlet to expression". In her perspective, all the drawing, painting and guitar lessons she took over the years, together with all the volunteer work in the cultural field she did and the cultural activities and institutions she experienced and visited helped her with cultivating and developing my creative skills and cultural knowledge. This means that creative and artistic development should start young, and should be encouraged by parents and educators.

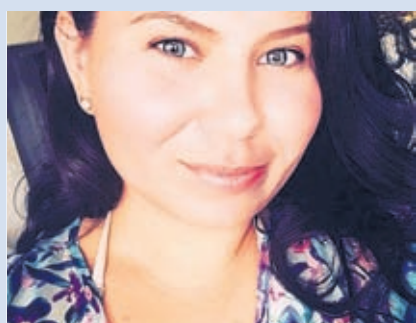
Looking Towards the Future

With a busy schedule teaching 'Wabi Sabi' to the Aruban community, Hannah is hoping to start studying hospitality. She thinks "as Aruba is a very service oriented island and there is still a lot to be done, I would love to use my part of creativity in the hospitality business". Besides devoting her time to her education, Hannah will continue in the arts by giving ceramic workshops and attending other creative workshops. Hannah encourages our artistic readers to "just go for it and do your thing. Think 'Wabi Sabi'. Love and appreciate your own art. Do not worry if the first



ones are not to your liking. Art is practice and dedication. Be inspired by others but please try not to copycat. We all try to make our own art. Express yourself your own way. Do not get discouraged. If opportunity does not knock on your door, do not wait too long. Start creating your own opportunity".

The Creative Islander wishes Hannah all the best with her studies and her workshops. Thank you for sharing your inspiring story with us and for teaching us to think 'Wabi Sabi'. For those who want to participate in one of Hannah's workshops, follow her on Facebook for information on upcoming events. □



Biography – Currently, Thaïs Franken is a 23-year-old Aruban student at the University of Maastricht (UM). She is studying a Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development in collaboration with the United Nations University (UNU). Back home, on the beautiful island of Aruba she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Organization, Governance & Management (OGM) at the University of Aruba (UA). She successfully graduated and defended her thesis titled "Placing Culture and Creativity at the Heart of the Aruban Sustainable Development" on July 6th 2018. Thaïs is very passionate about topics such as sustainability, innovation, culture and creativity. Next to her academic interests, she enjoys reading, writing, dancing and cooking.

Honoring of Goodwill Ambassadors at Holiday Inn Beach Resort



PALM BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors. The symbolic Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba for 20 years consecutive years or more.

The honorees were the lovely couple Tony Miklavsic and Candi Payne from USA who have been visiting the island 30 years consecutively!

The couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, delicious variety of foods, safety, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Holiday Inn Beach Resort and Casino presented the Goodwill Ambassador certificate to the honorees, and handed over some additional presents, thanking them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

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FOR SALE

Honoring loyal visitors from Argentina at La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors. The Goodwill Ambassador is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

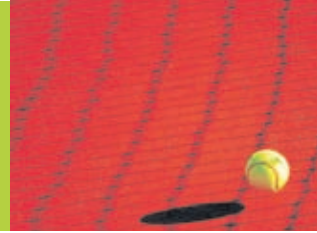
The honorees were the lovely couple Jorge P. Laffitte & Beatriz A. Dellepiane from Argentina, who have been visiting the island 21 years consecutively.

This couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, Aruba's natural pool located in Arikok National Park, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



SPORTS



Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant (35) leaves after being injured while playing against the Toronto Raptors during first-half basketball action in Game 5 of the NBA Finals in Toronto, Monday, June 10, 2019.

Associated Press

Warriors F Durant undergoes surgery for ruptured Achilles

By JANIE McCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Kevin Durant confirmed what everyone most feared: He underwent surgery for a ruptured right Achilles tendon.

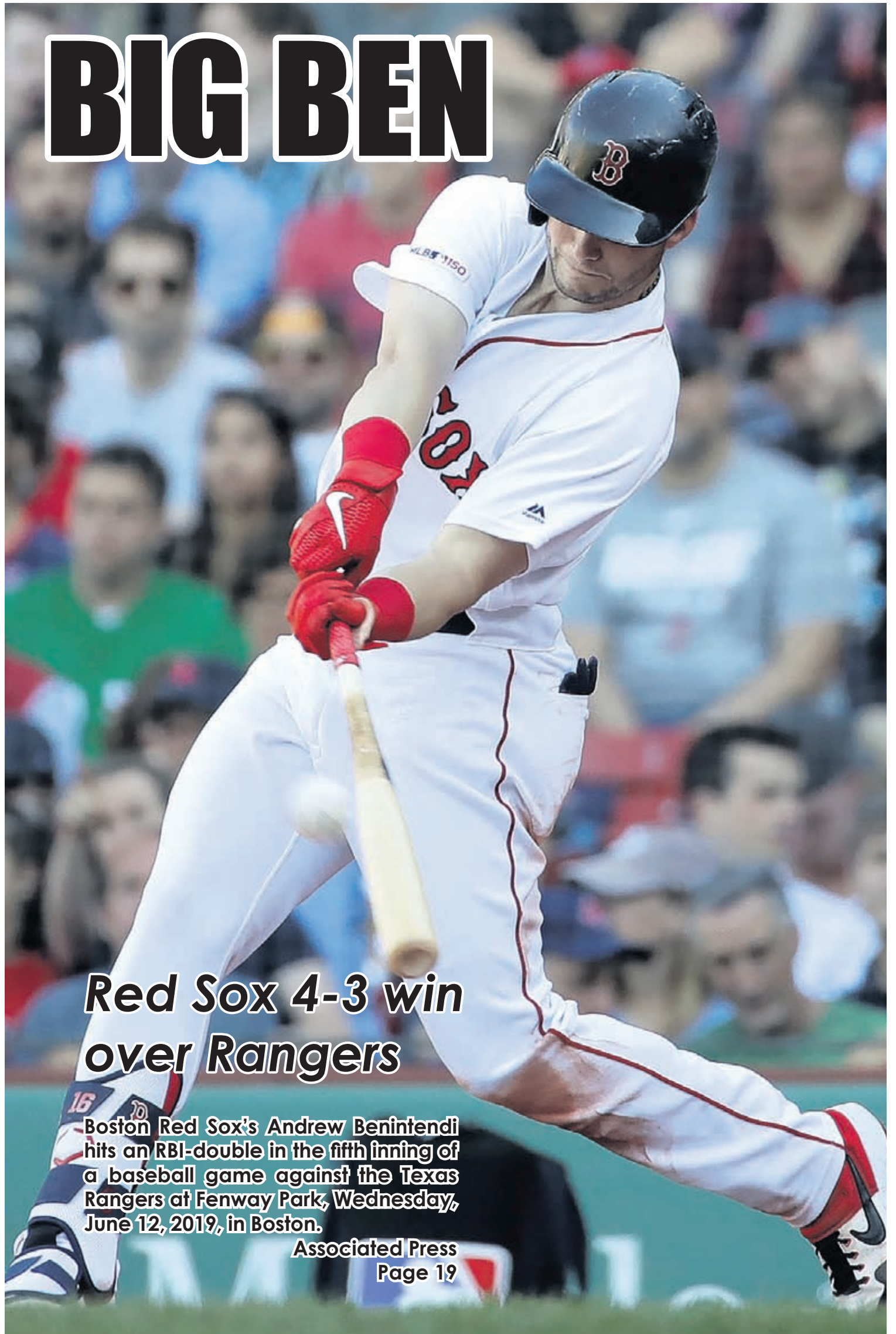
Durant posted on social media Wednesday the severity of his injury two days after getting hurt during Game 5 of the NBA Finals in Toronto in his return from a strained right calf that sidelined him a month.

The 30-year-old posted a photo on Instagram showing himself in a hospital bed and wrote: "I wanted to update you all: I did rupture my Achilles. Surgery was today and it was a success, EASY MONEY."

Just 15 minutes before Durant went public, Warriors coach Steve Kerr said during a finals media availability that he didn't yet have a formal update on Durant.

Continued on Page 20

BIG BEN



Red Sox 4-3 win over Rangers

Boston Red Sox's Andrew Benintendi hits an RBI-double in the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers at Fenway Park, Wednesday, June 12, 2019, in Boston.

Associated Press
Page 19

A beautiful course, a beast of a U.S. Open at Pebble Beach

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer
PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)

— Tiger Woods and Jordan Spieth began the final day of U.S. Open preparation with a walk along the beach.

No other U.S. Open has such a calming effect, especially the seven-hole stretch along the Pacific coast with sweeping views of sea lions basking on the rocks below the sixth green and people walking dogs on the seashore below the 10th fairway.

"What's not to like?" Dustin Johnson said. "The golf course is fantastic from start to finish. When you've got nice weather, it's quite beautiful out there."

About the time Woods and Spieth, along with Justin Thomas and Kevin Kisner, began their nine-hole practice round Wednesday on No. 10, fog crept over the foothills and soon blanketed the course. Visibility was reduced to about 250 yards.

It was an ominous sign the U.S. Open is no holiday.

Johnson is among the early starters when the 119th U.S. Open begins Thursday at Pebble Beach, which is celebrating its 100th year.

He is one of the favorites, not only from his sheer skill, but historical reasons whether it's February or June. Johnson has won the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am twice and was runner-up twice. The last time the U.S. Open was at Pebble, he had a three-shot lead going into the final round until he rushed his way through a triple bogey, a double bogey and a bogey before he reached the fifth hole. Johnson shot 82 and tied for eighth.

"The golf course was great," Johnson said about 2010. "I feel like the golf course is getting to where



Tiger Woods putts in the fog on the 13th hole during a practice round for the U.S. Open Championship golf tournament Wednesday, June 12, 2019, in Pebble Beach, Calif.

it's going to play like that later on this week. It's going to play tough. You've got to be very, very precise."

The USGA says it used 2010 as a blueprint for this U.S. Open, with a few exceptions. A tree that seems to be in the middle of the 18th fairway is now only a few paces from the rough on the right because of how much the fairway was narrowed.

The rough is lush as ever. The greens are small, and they look even smaller when not hitting from the fairway.

This is what a U.S. Open is supposed to look like.

"We're going into this week with a great plan, and part of that plan is to do what we've always done," said John Bodenhamer, the senior managing director of championships for the USGA. "We will continue to

endeavor to provide the toughest test, the ultimate test, the most comprehensive test, whatever you want to call it. And really just to create something where players' shot-making ability, mental resolve, physical stamina are tested."

Adding to the anticipation is how the other two majors turned out this year.

Nothing can top what Woods did at the Masters, where he emerged from a six-player pack on the back nine at Augusta National to win his fifth green jacket and 15th major in a career that only two years ago looked to be done in by back problems.

Brooks Koepka showed his major prowess, along with plenty of resolve, when he set a PGA Championship record with a seven-shot lead through 54 holes, nearly lost it, and then held

on to beat Johnson by two shots.

Koepka now goes for three straight U.S. Open titles, a feat only accomplished more than a century ago. Johnson looks for atonement from his U.S. Open meltdown at Pebble Beach. No one has greater history at Pebble Beach than Woods, not so much by number of victories but margin of victory. His 15-shot win in 2000 is nearly as iconic as the course itself.

"It's not the same body I had back in 2000," Woods said.

"I don't think any of us have the same body we had 19 years ago. Athletically, that's one of the challenges."

The course figures to present its own set of challenges. Woods recalls not missing a putt inside 10 feet in 2000. That's not likely to happen again, for him or anyone. Power never hurts anywhere in golf, though it's not as necessary as venues like Erin Hills or Torrey Pines.

"How do you put the ball in the correct position is the key," Woods said. "And these greens ... we don't

face greens like this, this small and this steep. And so it puts a premium on iron play, because I feel like most of the field can drive the ball in the fairways. The golf course is not overly long. It's where to put the ball in the right spots so you can have putts at it."

Woods and Spieth will be in the same group Thursday afternoon when it counts. Spieth won the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am three years ago and is starting to round into form as he approaches the two-year anniversary of his last win.

"It's just one of the most amazing pieces of property in the world, and the fact that we get to play golf on it is pretty amazing," Spieth said. "And to have a major championship on it is even more special. It's certainly a very different golf course than we're used to seeing in February."

With the weather we have, the USGA should be able to control the golf course the way they want to." The USGA wants to get it right after four years of various mishaps. More anything, it wants a strong test. That starts Thursday. □



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Betts' bases-loaded walk gives Red Sox 4-3 win over Rangers

By DOUG ALDEN
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Mookie Betts watched patiently as four straight pitches missed the strike zone, and the Red Sox averted disaster.

Betts drew a bases-loaded walk from reliever Jesse Chavez in the ninth, giving the Red Sox a 4-3 win over the Texas Rangers on Wednesday and halting Boston's three-game skid.

"I was pretty confident knowing the situation that he had to kind of come to me at that point. He was in trouble," Betts said. "It's huge. It's kind of tough because obviously we didn't want to let them back in the game right there."

Boston rallied against Chavez (2-1) in the ninth after allowing the Rangers to tie it in the eighth on an unearned run.

Andrew Benintendi hit a triple and two doubles, driving in two runs for the Red Sox as they avoided falling below .500 for the first time in more than a month.

Christian Vázquez, whose throwing error in the eighth put the tying run on third, led off the ninth with a ground-rule double to center. Jackie Bradley Jr. followed with a single and the Rangers walked Michael Chavis to load the bases for Betts, who fouled off the first pitch he saw from Chavez. The next four pitches were balls, and Marco Hernández, who pinch-ran for Vázquez, trotted home.

"I was just missing by a little bit. I think I was trying to be too fine in that situation where I don't know



Boston Red Sox's Mookie Betts is doused by teammates after drawing a game-ending walk that gave the team a 4-3 win against the Texas Rangers in a baseball game at Fenway Park, Wednesday, June 12, 2019, in Boston.

why I should," said Chavez, whose scoreless streak of 22 2/3 innings came to an end. "Just let them put the ball on the ground and let the defense do the work. Today was a day when I wasn't able to do it in a situation when we needed it, for sure."

The start of the game was moved up three hours to 4:05 p.m. to avoid overlapping with Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Final between the Boston Bruins and St. Louis Blues. Chants of "We want the Cup!" rang out from the stands throughout the game.

Matt Barnes (3-1) pitched a scoreless ninth. Starter Rick Porcello was in position for the win until Texas tied it in the eighth.

Brandon Workman hit Shin-Soo Choo with a pitch and went to third when Vázquez fielded a bunt by Delino DeShields and threw wildly. Elvis Andrus tied it with a sacrifice fly to right.

The Rangers had three consecutive hits with two outs in the first, taking a 2-0 lead on Hunter Pence's double to center, then went without a baserunner until the sixth. Porcello retired 13 straight batters before Andrus' two-out double in the sixth.

Porcello allowed two runs on five hits in 6 2/3 innings. "This was a game I think everybody knew we needed to win," Benintendi said. "Rick went out there and after that first inning, threw the ball really well and

gave us a shot to win. Yeah, this is a big win so hopefully we can build off it."

Benintendi, ejected Tuesday night for shouting at umpire Angel Hernandez about a called strike, doubled and scored in the first. He hit an RBI triple in the third, tying it at 2-2, and drove in a run with a double in the fifth.

Starter Lance Lynn worked six innings for the Rangers, allowing three runs on six hits. He walked one and struck out eight.

WINNING

The Red Sox, who only a few days before were trying to climb five games above .500, improved to 35-34. Boston hasn't had a losing record since May 7, when it beat Baltimore to

move to 19-19.

The World Series champion Red Sox haven't been more than four games above .500 so far this season.

"I've been saying the goal is to get to five over," manager Alex Cora said. "We need to get there, and I say sooner rather than later and it's getting, like, later. But we've still got time to do that."

TEXAS TOUGH

Rangers manager Chris Woodward had an easy time shaking off this loss. His club has won four of six and has a chance at taking three of four in the Rangers' only visit to Boston this season.

"We're in a good spot. We've been playing well, so it's fun to watch our guys compete in that kind of environment against a good team," Woodward said. "When they take it out on the field, they're fearless. We got beat today, but they had to execute some pitches to beat us and that's going to happen every once in a while."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Rangers: LHP Drew Smyly will miss his scheduled start on Friday when Texas visits Cincinnati. Woodward said he wanted to take some pressure off Smyly, who has struggled in his last two starts and will be available in the bullpen. ... LF Willie Calhoun (quadriceps strain) will start a rehab assignment with Triple-A Nashville on Thursday. ... 1B Ronald Guzmán needed few minutes after a sharp grounder caught him on the wrist in the second inning. □

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Achilles

Continued from Page 17

Durant has made his own announcements before, such as writing on The Players' Tribune website about his decision to leave Oklahoma City to join Golden State in July 2016.

The Warriors said later Wednesday that Durant had the surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York, performed by Dr. Martin O'Malley.

Kerr said everyone in the organization is "devastated," including Dr. Rick Celibrini, the team's director of medicine and performance. The Warriors made a "collaborative" decision to clear Durant to play — with the input of Durant and his representative — and had no idea that Durant risked a serious Achilles injury by returning from a strained calf, Kerr said.

"Now, would we go back and do it over again? Damn right," he said. "But that's easy to say after the

results. When we gathered all the information, our feeling was the worst thing that could happen would be a re-injure of the calf. That was the advice and the information that we had. At that point, once Kevin was cleared to play, he was comfortable with that, we were comfortable with that. So the Achilles came as a complete shock. I don't know what else to add to that, other than had we known that this was a possibility, that this was even in the realm of possibility, there's no way we ever would have allowed Kevin to come back."

After the game Monday, a teary, emotional general manager Bob Myers asked anyone who was looking to place blame to do so on him — not Durant, the medical staff or athletic trainers who worked so tirelessly to get him back.

Kerr said he also understands people wanting to point blame somewhere,



Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant, left, falls over Toronto Raptors center Serge Ibaka, bottom, as Warriors forward Andre Iguodala (9) looks on during first-half basketball game action in Game 5 of the NBA Finals in Toronto, Monday, June 10, 2019.

though he noted, "Kevin checked all the boxes, and he was cleared to play by everybody involved," including doctors from within the organization and from the outside.

"I completely understand the world we live in. As Bob mentioned the other night, there's going to be blame. There's going to be finger-pointing. We understand that and we accept that. This is kind of what you sign

up for when you get into coaching, general management, in the NBA," Kerr said.

The two-time reigning NBA Finals MVP was injured Monday night in the second quarter of Golden State's 106-105 victory that forced a Game 6 at Oracle Arena on Thursday. The Raptors lead the best-of-seven series 3-2.

Durant initially was injured May 8 in Game 5 of the

Western Conference semifinals against the Rockets, then missed the next nine games. A pending free agent, it's unclear what might be next for Durant now that he is set for a long rehab and recovery. Teammate DeMarcus Cousins returned in January nearly a year after rupturing his left Achilles tendon and undergoing surgery last season while with New Orleans.

"Everybody has great 20/20 hindsight," Curry said, then added: "I trust our medical staff and know Bob Myers has our best interests in terms of not just what we can do in this series, but long term in our overall health.

You see how hard he took it, talking to you guys after the game. And that's really genuine and authentic. So you can waste time talking about the what-ifs and this and that. Injuries are tough and they suck.

They're a part of our game, and they're going to continue to be a part of our game. □



In this May 18, 2019, file photo, jockey Tyler Gaffalione, right, reacts aboard War of Will, as they crosses the finish line first to win the Preakness Stakes horse race at Pimlico Race Course, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

Baltimore withdraws lawsuit against owner of Preakness track

By DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Baltimore announced Wednesday that it has withdrawn a lawsuit against the owner and operator of the historic city racetrack that hosts the Preakness Stakes, the Triple Crown series' middle jewel and the second-oldest track in America.

Earlier this year, Maryland's biggest city had asked a court to grant ownership of the Pimlico Race Course and the Preakness race to Baltimore through condemnation. The lawsuit had dramatically ratcheted up a dispute over whether the Preakness would continue to be run at crumbling Pimlico or at a fresher Maryland track, the owner's favored Laurel Park.

The Pimlico course and Laurel Park are both owned by Stronach, a Canadian company that owns several other U.S. tracks including the Santa Anita Park in California.

But Baltimore Mayor Bernard "Jack" Young disclosed Wednesday that the city has withdrawn its condemnation action against the Stronach Group, the Maryland Jockey Club and others following a "productive discussion" he recently had with the Canadian company's president.

"I am pleased that we have reached this withdrawal agreement and standstill with the Maryland Jockey Club and the Stronach Group to give the parties an opportunity to discuss Pimlico and racing in Maryland," Young said in a statement.

He stressed that City Hall is "committed to keeping the Preakness in Baltimore." City leaders have been seeking state funding to redevelop the 149-year-old track and the surrounding Park Heights neighborhood.

However, a push to have Laurel Park host the second leg of the Triple Crown doesn't appear to be going away.

The rundown Pimlico course is desperately in need of a major overhaul, and Baltimore city officials, the owners of the track and many trainers disagree on whether it's smart to spend nearly half a billion dollars on upgrades. Last year, a study by the Maryland Stadium Authority said the Pimlico Race Course should be torn down and rebuilt at a cost of \$424 million.

Meanwhile, the old Baltimore track has fallen into further disarray as Stronach has steered renovation funding toward Laurel Park, which it hopes to transform into a state-of-the-art facility. Citing the "safety and security of all guests and employees," the Maryland Jockey Club closed off 6,670 seats in the Pimlico grandstand before this year's Preakness race, and many of the barns are dilapidated. A water main break on Preakness Day shut down many of the toilets last month. □



New York Liberty's Kia Nurse looks to pass the ball away from Minnesota Lynx's Danielle Robinson, left, Sylvia Fowles, second from right, and Lexie Brown, right, during the second half of a WNBA basketball game Wednesday, June 12, 2019, in White Plains, N.Y. The Liberty won 75-69.

Associated Press

Nurse and Durr help Liberty beat Lynx 75-69

By DOUG FEINBERG

AP Basketball Writer

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) —

Kia Nurse and Asia Durr provided the offensive spark to help the New York Liberty beat the Minnesota Lynx 75-69 on Wednesday night. Nurse scored 26 points, including 11 in the fourth quarter, and Durr added a career-high 20.

"Total team effort with a balanced scoring effort and getting key stops defensively allowed us to get the win," Nurse said. "We're continuing to find ways to win, playing with a lot of passion and that will allow you to go far in this league. We just need to continue to close it out." New York had a 10-point lead heading into the fourth quarter that Minnesota whittled down to 61-58 before Nurse hit a 3-pointer. That sparked a 10-4 run and made it 71-62. The Lynx rallied within four, but Durr made a spectacular move, splitting two defenders and scoring with 20 seconds left to seal the win.

"I was just trying to make a play. The shot clock was going down," Durr said. "I didn't want to turn the ball over. Make a move and try to score." The No. 2 pick in the draft said she was hearing from coach Katie Smith to shoot the ball more and she did. Sylvia Fowles had 16 points and 11 rebounds to lead Min-

nesota (4-3), which has dropped three of its last four games. Fowles was happy that the team was able to rally from a 15-point deficit in the first half, but the team still needs to work on its end-game. "Coming back is part of the game," Fowles said. "Finishing and doing what we need to do is something different and we're not executing right now." The win was the second straight for New York, which had a 17-game losing streak before Sunday's victory over Las Vegas.

New York used a 14-2 run spanning the end of the first quarter and beginning of the second quarter to turn a 9-8 lead into a 13-point advantage. Durr was a big part of that spurt as the rookie surpassed her previous career-high of 12 points before halftime. She finished the opening 20 minutes with 14 points as New York led 38-28 at the break.

SOLID DEFENSE: Amanda Zahui B. had another strong defensive effort for the Liberty with two blocks and two steals to go along with 15 points and 13 rebounds. "What she's been able to do on the defensive end, having the energy, she's been the glue for us this year," said Tina Charles of her teammate.

MILESTONES: Fowles moved into the top 20 on the WNBA

career scoring list, passing Taj McWilliams-Franklin in the first quarter for 20th. The Lynx star has 5,025 points.

CHINESE CONNECTION:

Wednesday night marked the first time in WNBA history that two Chinese players competed against each other in a regular-season game. New York's Han Xu and Minnesota's Shao Ting chatted before the game. Han was drafted 14th by New York this year while Shao was signed as a free agent in April. The pair played together for China on the national team that finished sixth at the FIBA World Cup last fall. The pair didn't get on the court.

TRAINING ROOM: Liberty forward Rebecca Allen broke the third metacarpal bone in her right hand in practice on Tuesday. She's out at least three weeks. Allen was wearing a soft cast. ... Minnesota guard Seimone Augustus traveled with the team and is still recovering from arthroscopic surgery on her right knee on May 30. She's out indefinitely. She was charged with a technical foul from the bench early in the fourth quarter. ... Lynx rookie Jessica Shepard wasn't with the team after tearing the ACL in her right knee. She will miss the remainder of the season and have surgery once the swelling on the knee goes down. □

Lindros backing anti-concussion efforts in native Canada

TORONTO (AP) — Hockey Hall of Famer Eric Lindros is hoping a new campaign launched across Ontario will help amateur athletes, parents and coaches better identify the signs and symptoms of a concussion after his career was cut short by repeated blows to the head.

"You see anything that's off or someone's not feeling quite right, let's pull them (out of the game)," Lindros told The Canadian Press this week. "Let's not even question it."

The provincial government's ad campaign — called "Hit. Stop. Sit." — follows the passing of Rowan's Law, the first of its kind in Canada and set to take effect July 1. The law is named after Rowan Stringer, a youth rugby player who died in 2013 from second impact syndrome after suffering multiple concussions. Rowan's Law establishes protocols for players to ensure they are taken out of action if a concussion is suspected, requires a review of awareness resources and outlines a code of conduct that sets out rules of behavior.

"We're here because Rowan pushed it," Lindros continued. "She had three concussions in six days — that's an extreme case — and she ended up dying. We don't want anything close to that happening."

A commercial featuring a female soccer player receiving repeated blows to the head before collapsing on the field has been shown at movie theatres across Ontario as part of



In this Feb. 6, 2019, file photo, former NHL hockey player Eric Lindros appears at the House of Commons' Health committee on sports-related concussions in Ottawa, Ontario.

Associated Press

the campaign. The spot made its TV debut during Monday's Game 5 of the NBA Finals. Lindros, who was voted as one of the NHL's 100 greatest players in 2017, suffered at least five concussions during his dominant, injury-shortened career. A jarring Scott Stevens shoulder-to-head hit on Lindros in Game 7 of the 2000 Eastern Conference final was legal at the time, and that came two years after Lindros took another devastating hit from Darius Kasparaitis.

Now a 46-year-old husband and father, Lindros said of that blow: "'I got into the showers, and when you're in the visiting team's locker room, all the emblems on the towels have the home

team's logo. I truly thought I got traded to Pittsburgh. Lindros, who doesn't want the threat of concussions to deter kids from playing sports, does favor a ban on all hits to the head across hockey — including the NHL — and the teaching of body contact at a much later age than the current standard.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman has consistently questioned any direct link between multiple concussions and chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a brain condition associated with repeated blows to the head. CTE can only be diagnosed after death. Lindros sighed when asked about Bettman's concussion and CTE comments. □



In this Wednesday July 25, 2018 file photo, Britain's Chris Froome, right, and Britain's Geraint Thomas climb Montee de Peyragudes pass during the seventeenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race in Saint-Lary-Soulan, Col du Portet pass, France.

Associated Press

Froome crashes in training, will miss Tour de France

ROANNE, France (AP) — Four-time Tour de France champion Chris Froome will miss this year's race after a "bad crash" in training on Wednesday.

Team INEOS leader Dave Brailsford said Froome sustained a suspected fractured femur in a 60 kph (40 mph) crash.

The British rider was being airlifted to a hospital, Brailsford said at the Criterium du Dauphine race in south-eastern France.

Froome was practicing on the route of the 26-kilometer (16-mile) fourth stage of the eight-day Dauphine race, which would have been the 34-year-old rider's first time-trial test this season.

Brailsford said Froome was

riding in gusty winds and seemed to lose control of his front wheel when trying to clear his nose.

Froome received treatment quickly from medical staff with a race ambulance that was near the scene of the crash, Brailsford said.

Seeking a fourth win in the key preparation race, Froome was eighth in the Dauphine standings, 24 seconds behind leader Dylan Teuns of Belgium. Froome won the Dauphine before his Tour wins in 2013, '15 and '16. He also won the 2017 Tour.

The three-week Tour de France starts on July 6. Long-time Froome teammate Geraint Thomas is the defending champion. □

Maximum Security races this weekend

OCEANPORT, N.J. (AP) — The trainer of Maximum Security plans to decide Thursday whether the colt will race this weekend in his first start since finishing first in the Kentucky Derby and being disqualified.

Jason Servis was uncertain Wednesday whether to run Maximum Security on Sunday in the Pegasus Stakes at Monmouth Park. The \$150,000 race for 3-year-olds will be run over 1 1/16 miles.

Servis said recent bloodwork on Maximum Security showed no problems, but he felt the colt was still a little light in terms of weight. Servis had ordered the bloodwork after thinking that the colt was a little off during a workout Sunday. "It's a tough decision. It really is," he said. "The bloodwork threw a wrench into everything because it was good. If it was bad, it would be easy."

The trainer said Maximum Security galloped 1 1/8 miles on Wednesday and looked fit.

The current plan is to race Maximum Security in the Pegasus and the Haskell on July 20, both at Monmouth Park. The colt would then be shipped to Saratoga Springs, New York, for the Travers Stakes on Aug. 24.

Maximum Security initially scored a 1 3/4-length victory over Country

House in the Kentucky Derby on May 2. The victory was overturned 22 minutes later with a stunning decision by the stewards to disqualify the 9-2 second choice because of interference with eventual Preakness winner War of Will and other horses.

It marked the first time in the 145-year history of the Derby that the first-place finisher was disqualified for interference. □

U.S. catches heat for World Cup goal celebrations

By ANNE M. PETERSON

AP Sports Writer

REIMS, France (AP) — The goals were one thing, the celebrations another.

The U.S. women's national team faced criticism following its record-breaking 13-0 rout of Thailand on Tuesday night. The win set a World Cup record for goals and margin of victory. Alex Morgan alone had five goals, matching the most in one game in tournament history.

But there were questions about whether the Americans should have celebrated goals once the game was well in hand. Were the three-time World Cup champions being unsportsmanlike, or merely sending a message to the rest of the field?

Alex Morgan was asked afterward about the display of hugs, high-fives, and posturing for the many American fans at Stade Auguste-Delaune.

"I think in the moment, every time we score a goal in a World Cup — you've dreamt of it. I dreamt of it since I was a little girl," she said. "You know, winning a World Cup and being back there for the third time, we want that fourth star. So tonight we knew that any goal could matter in this group-stage game. And when it comes to celebrations, I think this was a really good team performance and I think it was important for us to celebrate to-



United States' Alex Morgan, second right, celebrates after scoring her side's 12th goal during the Women's World Cup Group F soccer match between United States and Thailand at the Stade Auguste-Delaune in Reims, France, Tuesday, June 11, 2019. Morgan scored five goals during the match.

gether." Those celebrations drew ire on social media, some of it directed at veteran Megan Rapinoe for twirling and turf-sliding after her goal — which made it 9-0. A World Cup-record seven U.S. players scored in the game.

Morgan was rebuked for holding up four fingers after her fourth goal, which made it 10-0.

"A lot of this is about building momentum and so as a coach I don't find it my job to rein my players in," coach Jill Ellis said. "This

is what they've dreamt about. This is for them. This is a world championship"

Rapinoe, interviewed on FOX Sports on Wednesday, also addressed the criticism.

"If anyone wants to come at our team for not doing the right thing, not playing the right way, not being a good ambassador, they can come at us. It was an explosion of joy," she said. "If our crime is joy, then we will take that."

Rapinoe pointed to the team's young players who

Associated Press

scored their first World Cup goals and said they had every right to celebrate, including Samantha Mewis, Rose Lavelle, Mallory Pugh and Lindsey Horan.

In a postgame show of sportsmanship, the U.S. team also consoled some of the emotional Thai players. Morgan offered encouragement to forward Miranda Nild, who like Morgan played college soccer at Cal.

Thailand's players were disappointed, but they have also been on the other

end of blowouts. Thailand won a friendly over Indonesia 13-0 last year, and beat Cambodia 11-0 in the group stage of the AFF Women's Championship.

"In football games, everybody is following the rules, and everyone is trying their best," Thailand coach Nuengrutai Srathongvian said. "We have to accept that, this team is very good. We don't have any excuse, except they are better."

At the World Cup, goal differential becomes important in deciding tie-breakers for the knockout stage. The U.S. team is in a group with nemesis Sweden, as well as Thailand and Chile. It was understood that the top-ranked Americans would likely trounce Thailand, ranked 34th in the world, and possibly No. 39 Chile, which is making its World Cup debut. The game with Chile is set for Sunday in Paris.

The United States faces Sweden in the final game of the group stage next week. It is their first meeting since the Swedes ousted the Americans from the 2016 Olympics in the quarterfinals — the team's earliest exit ever. Sweden bunkered on defense and afterward then-U.S. goalkeeper Hope Solo called the team cowards.

Currently ranked No. 9, Sweden defeated Chile 2-0 in Rennes on Tuesday night and will play Thailand in Nice on Sunday. □

Zlatan Ibrahimovic sets MLS salary record at \$7.2 million

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — LA Galaxy forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic is earning a Major League Soccer-record \$7.2 million salary this season.

The 37-year-old Ibrahimovic, who earned a relatively modest \$1.5 million last year, broke the previous mark of Toronto's Sebastian Giovinco, who had \$7,115,556 in total compensation in both 2017 and 2018. The MLS Players Association said Wednesday the average base salary for all players this year is \$376,174 and the average

guaranteed compensation is \$417,643, including a prorated share of guaranteed money not attributable to a specific year. The average salary for senior roster non-designated players increased 13.3% to \$345,867 and is up from \$138,140 in 2014. Toronto midfielder Michael Bradley (\$6 million base, \$6,428,571 total) is third, followed by Toronto striker Jozy Altidore (\$4,891,250, \$6,332,250), LAFC forward Carlos Vela (\$4.5 million base, \$6.3 million total), Chicago mid-

fielder Bastian Schweinsteiger (\$5.6 million base and total), Montreal winger Ignacio Piatti (\$530,000, \$4,443,333), Toronto midfielder Alejandro Pozuelo (\$3.8 million), DC United forward Wayne Rooney (\$3.5 million, \$3,507,500), Atlanta forward Josef Martinez (\$3 million, \$3,058,333), Seattle forward Nicolás Lodeiro (\$2 million, \$2,502,500), Orlando midfielder Nani (\$2,333,333, \$2,486,250) and Colorado goalkeeper Tim Howard (\$2 million, \$2,475,000). □



LA Galaxy forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic (9) celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal during the second half of an MLS soccer match against the Sporting Kansas City Wednesday, May 29, 2019, in Kansas City, Kan. LA Galaxy won 2-0.

Associated Press

Facebook invests in renewables with Texas solar project

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS**
Associated Press
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)

— Facebook is building a massive solar farm in West Texas that's believed to be one of the largest solar projects in the nation and the social media giant's first direct investment in renewable energy.

Boston-based renewable energy developer Longroad Energy recently announced it was partnering with Facebook on the \$416 million project, just as Facebook is finishing construction of a data center near Albuquerque.

The Prospero Solar project just north of Odessa, Texas, will have a capacity of 379 megawatts, which is enough to power around 72,000 homes based on the national average, the Solar Energy Industries Association said.

The project goes beyond Facebook's goal to use renewable energy to power its data centers, where the social media giant stores photos, videos and other information that people post on the platform.

Prospero Solar is expected to be completed next year and will take up around 7 square miles (18 square kilometers) — more than five times the size of Central



In this April 30, 2019, file photo, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg makes the keynote speech at F8, Facebook's developer conference in San Jose, Calif.

Park in New York City.

Ben Inskeep, a research analyst for EQ Research, a North Carolina-based renewable energy consulting firm, said it makes sense for Facebook to invest in solar power because renewable energy is becoming more affordable and its data centers have huge operating costs.

"West Texas has some of the best solar resources in the nation," Inskeep said. "So it's not about saying you support renewable en-

ergy. It makes good business sense."

Shell Energy North America and Facebook will share the power generated by the solar farm.

"Facebook is excited to be one of the first companies to use a direct investment to meet our renewable energy goals," company energy strategy manager Peter Freed said in a statement.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced in April that Facebook was building six new

solar projects to support its data centers. They house tens of thousands of computer servers, which are linked to the outside world through fiber-optic cables.

"Our data centers are already some of the most energy efficient in the world, and last year we set a goal for all our data centers and offices to use 100% renewable energy by 2020," Zuckerberg wrote on his personal Facebook page. "These new solar projects will help us reach that goal."

It comes as Facebook battles New Mexico regulators over a new transmission line to its data center in the small town of Los Lunas.

State regulators last month declined to reconsider their decision for the largest utility to bill Facebook \$39 million for the transmission line. They said ratepayers could not be charged for the project because the line wouldn't benefit retail customers. The Public Service Co. of New Mexico said it's disappointed by the decision and is reviewing options for how to proceed.

The New Mexico data center is one of seven such sites for Facebook, and includes six buildings for data storage. It is situated on a patch of desert at the edge of Los Lunas, which lies just beyond the edge of New Mexico's largest metropolitan area and along the Rio Grande.

Each of the data center's buildings is roughly the size of four football fields and has several "data halls," or darkened, vast rooms where Facebook plans to store dozens of rows of towering servers. Two of those halls are now in operation, while construction that began more than two years ago will continue until 2023, the company said. □



This undated product image provided by Volvo Cars shows the Volvo XC90 SUV.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Uber is testing restaurant food deliveries by drone.

The company's Uber Eats unit began the tests in San Diego with McDonald's and plans to expand to other restaurants later this year. Uber says the service should decrease food de-

livery times. It works this way: Workers at a restaurant load the meal into a drone and it takes off, tracked and guided by a new aerospace management system.

The drone then meets an Uber Eats driver at a drop-off location, and the driver

Uber tests drone food delivery, launches new autonomous SUV

will hand-deliver the meal to the customer.

In the future, the company wants to land drones atop parked vehicles near delivery locations and secure them to the vehicle for the final mile of the delivery.

Last year Uber and the city of San Diego won a bid from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration to test food delivery by air.

"We've been working closely with the FAA to ensure that we're meeting requirements and prioritizing safety," Luke Fischer, head of flight operations at Uber Elevate, said in a statement Wednesday. The company said the knowledge it gains

from the tests will help with Uber's planned aerial ride-sharing network.

Also Wednesday, Uber announced that it would work with Volvo Cars to build a vehicle that comes off the assembly line capable of driving autonomously.

The ride-hailing company's self-driving system will be installed in production versions of the Volvo XC90 SUV. The vehicle's steering and braking systems are designed for computer rather than human control, including several backup systems for both steering and braking functions and battery backup power. If the primary systems fail, the

backup system will immediately act to bring the car to a stop. Various sensors will allow Uber's self-driving system to safely operate and maneuver in urban areas, the company said.

Uber and Volvo Cars partnered in September 2016. This is the third car they've developed together.

Volvo says it plans to use a similar vehicle to introduce its own self-driving cars in the early 2020s.

Uber made the announcement at its third-annual Uber Elevate Summit.

The announcements came on a day with a lot of activity in autonomous vehicle technology. □

Businesses showing discontent with Trump's trade policies

By **PAUL WISEMAN**

STEVE PEOPLES

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's aggressive and wildly unpredictable use of tariffs is spooking American business groups, which have long formed a potent force in his Republican Party.

Corporate America was blindsided last week when Trump threatened to impose crippling taxes on Mexican imports in a push to stop the flow of Central American migrants into the United States.

The two sides reached a truce Friday after Mexico agreed to do more to stop the migrants. But by Monday, Trump was again threatening the tariffs if Mexico didn't abide by an unspecified commitment, to "be revealed in the not too distant future."

Such whipsawing is now a hallmark of Trump's trade policy. The president repeatedly threatens tariffs, sometimes imposes them, sometimes suspends them, sometimes threatens them again. Or drops them.

Business groups, already uncomfortable with Trump's attempts to stem immigration, are struggling to figure out where to stand in the fast-shifting political climate. They have happily supported Trump's corporate tax cuts and moves to loosen environmental and other regulations. But the capriciousness of Trump's use of tariffs has proved alarming.

"Business is losing," said Rick Tyler, a Republican strategist and frequent Trump critic. "He calls himself 'Mr. Tariff man.' He's proud of it... It's bad news for the party. It's bad news for the free market."

"It was a good wakeup call for business," James Jones, chairman of Monarch Global Strategies and a former U.S. ambassador to Mexico, said of Trump's abrupt move to threaten to tax Mexican goods.

Just last week, the sprawling network led by the billionaire industrialist Charles Koch announced the creation of several political ac-



In this May 9, 2019, photo, steel rods produced at the Gerdau Ameristeel mill in St. Paul, Minn.

Associated Press

tion committees focused on policy — including one devoted to free trade — to back Republicans or Democrats who break with Trump's trade policies. A powerful force in Republican politics, the network is already a year into a "multi-year multi-million dollar" campaign to promote the dangers of tariff and protectionist trade policies.

The Chamber of Commerce, too, is in the early phases of disentangling itself from the Republican Party after decades of loyalty. The Chamber, which spent at least \$29 million largely to help Republicans in the 2016 election, announced earlier this year that it would devote more time and attention to Democrats on Capitol Hill while raising the possibility of supporting Democrats in 2020. Few expect the Chamber or business-backed groups like the Koch network to suddenly embrace Democrats in a significant way. But even a subtle shift to withhold support from vulnerable Republican candidates could make a difference in 2020.

Trump's boundless enthusiasm for tariffs has upended decades of Republican trade policy that favored free trade. It has left the

party's traditional allies in the business world struggling to maintain political relevance in the Trump era. Trump's tariffs are taxes paid by American importers and are typically passed along to their customers. They can provoke retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports. And they can paralyze businesses, uncertain about where they should buy supplies or situate factories.

"Knowing the rules helps us plan for the future," said Jeff Schwager, president of Sartori, a cheese company that has had to contend with retaliatory tariffs in Mexico in an earlier dispute.

Trump seems unfazed.

Myron Brilliant, head of international affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, went on CNBC on Monday to decry "the weaponization of tariffs" as a threat to the U.S. economy and to relations with trading partners.

Trump responded by phoning in to the network to declare "I guess he's not so brilliant" and defend his trade policies.

"Tariffs," he said, "are a beautiful thing."

Trump can afford to be confident about his grip over the party: Roughly

nine in 10 rank-and-file Republicans support his performance as president, according to the latest Gallup polling. So Republicans in Congress have been reluctant to tangle with him.

But last week's flareup over the Mexico tariffs may prove to be a pivotal juncture. The spat was especially alarming to businesses because it came seemingly out of nowhere. Less than two weeks earlier, Trump had lifted tariffs on Mexican and Canadian steel and aluminum — action that seemed to signal warmer commercial ties between the United States and its neighbors.

"This really came out of left field," said Daniel Ujcz, a trade lawyer at Dickinson Wright. "It was something we thought we had settled, and we hadn't."

Congress was already showing signs of wariness, especially over Trump's decision to dust off a little-used provision of trade law to slap tariffs on trading partners. Section 232 of the Trade Expansion of 1962 lets the president impose sanctions on imports that he deems a threat to national security.

Trump has deployed that provision to tax imported steel and aluminum. And

he's threatening to impose Section 232 tariffs on auto imports, a chilling threat to American allies Japan and the European Union.

Congress is considering bipartisan legislation to weaken the president's authority to declare national-security tariffs. In doing so, lawmakers would be reasserting Congress' authority over trade policy, established by the Constitution but ceded over the years to the White House.

The legislation has stalled in Congress this spring. But on Tuesday, Iowa Republican Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said the bill would be ready "pretty soon."

Given "how the president feels about tariffs," Grassley said, "he may not look favorably on this. So I want a very strong vote in my committee and then, in turn, a very strong vote on the floor of the Senate."

Congressional reluctance to challenge Trump could be tested in coming months. Lawmakers may balk if he proceeds with plans to tax \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods that he hasn't already targeted with tariffs — a move that would jack up what consumers pay for everything from bicycles to burglar.

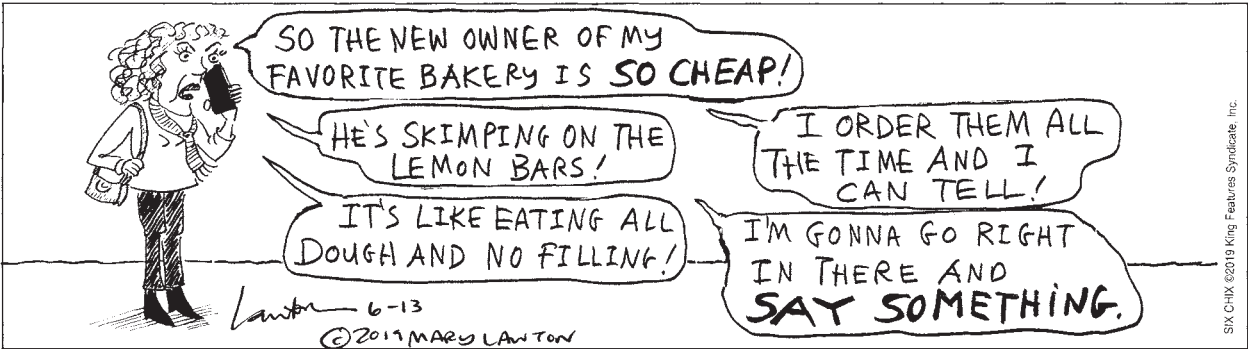
Likewise, taxing auto imports — an idea that has virtually no support outside the White House — would likely meet furious resistance. So would any move to abandon a trade pact with Mexico and Canada. Trump has threatened to withdraw from the 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement if Congress won't ratify a revamped version he negotiated last year.

For all their disenchantment with Trump, the Chamber of Commerce may yet find it hard to break its ties to the party. Though the chamber says it's weighing a more bipartisan approach, it recently featured a sign on its front steps: It likened Trump to Republican icons Ronald Reagan and Dwight Eisenhower. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

3		2	5			8		6
	8						3	
6			9					7
						3		4
			6					
7		9						
8					3			2
	2					6		
5		7			9	4		1

Difficulty Level ★★★

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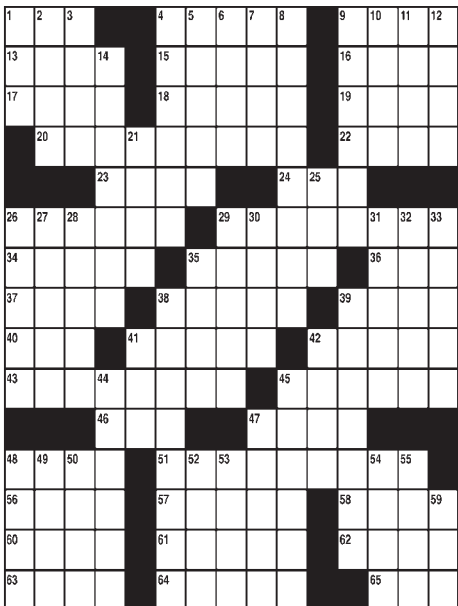
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	7	5	9	2	8	1	6	3
6	9	3	5	1	7	2	4	8
1	8	2	6	3	4	5	7	9
7	4	8	1	9	2	3	5	6
2	1	6	3	7	5	9	8	4
5	3	9	8	4	6	7	2	1
9	2	7	4	8	1	6	3	5
8	5	1	2	6	3	4	9	7
3	6	4	7	5	9	8	1	2

ACROSS

- 1 Brooch
- 4 Fibromyalgia symptoms
- 9 Curved beam overhead
- 13 Give off, as heat
- 15 Young hog
- 16 Not at all ruddy
- 17 Storm or Gordon
- 18 __ Monica, CA
- 19 Wild feline
- 20 Cruel
- 22 Chances
- 23 Word attached to melon or rat
- 24 Male pronoun
- 26 Elk
- 29 Tibia
- 34 Leaves out
- 35 __ twice; reconsider
- 36 Obi-__ Kenobi
- 37 Linear measure
- 38 Part of a fork
- 39 In a __; putting
- 40 Not long __; recently
- 41 Burst forth
- 42 Sifting device
- 43 Informs
- 45 Roam
- 46 "Rocky Balboa" production co.
- 47 Powder
- 48 Fellow
- 51 Building designer
- 56 After-bath apparel
- 57 Mystic card
- 58 Gather crops
- 60 Imitated
- 61 Corroded
- 62 Avenue liners
- 63 __ one's time; wait
- 64 Seamstress
- 65 Floral ring



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/13/19

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

DIP	ATREE	SCOT
GAMA	GRILL	TOME
EMMY	REMEMBERED	
TEA	PEASE	OPENS
TRIED	HOP	
STEINS	FOREST	
TAROT	SCABS	POD
OMIT	PIANO	PERU
PEA	CRAPS	BLEAT
SLALOM	TOUCHY	
MAD	MARSH	
OFTEN	SPIRE	LAS
WRONGDOING	TELL	
NERD	OUNCE	ESPY
SEES	GREET	ESS

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6/13/19

- 38 Apes & monkeys
- 48 Grouch
- 49 Arizona tribe
- 50 Not up yet
- 52 Uncommon
- 53 Noisy bird
- 54 Jailbird's home
- 55 No longer wild
- 59 Fraternity letter

DOWN

- 1 Nickname for Margaret
- 2 Mosque leader
- 35 __blue; loyal

Tribe in northeast India prays for good harvest



In this Monday, June 10, 2019 photo, an Indian tribal man practices before performing a cultural dance with traditional drums during Baikho festival at Pantan village, west of Gauhati, India.

Associated Press

Associated Press

PANTAN, India (AP) — The Rabha tribal community in India's northeastern state of Assam celebrates the Baikho festival each year, performing traditional rituals to please a deity of wealth and ask for good rains and a good harvest. On the first day of the weeklong rituals, people scrub their homes and belongings clean. They clear

jungle lands of fallen foliage near the village where the deity is believed to live. After sunset, spiritual leaders visit each household, sing ceremonial songs and sprinkle rice on the rooftops. They are offered rice beer. Then the community gathers near the house of the head priest and sings ritual songs while drinking and dancing. □



Classifieds

Halley Time Travel

Marriott Ocean Club
Platinum Season
1 BR OceanView \$12 K
1 BR OceanFront \$18 K
2 BR OceanView \$18 K
2 BR OceanFront \$28 K
Gold season
1 BR OceanView \$6 K
2 BR OceanView \$8 K
2 BR OceanFront \$12 K

Marriott Surf Club
Platinum season
2 BR Garden View \$15 K
2 BR Ocean View \$17 K
2 BR Ocean side \$18 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$27 K
3 BR Ocean View \$28 K

Marriott Surf Club
Gold Season
2 BR Garden View \$7 K
2 BR Ocean View \$8 K
2 BR Ocean Side \$9 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$12 K
3 BR Ocean View \$15 K

Divi Village
2BR, 2.5 Bath 2 Balcony
Ocean View with 32 weeks
remain on contract for week
22 on the 5th floor
C building \$8500

Aruba Divi Phoenix
Studio WK#24
Building # 6th floor
30weeks remain \$7000
Amsterdam Manor
1BR WK#22
Ground Floor \$4000

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HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

IMSAN 24 Hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Kibrahacha Tel. 583 4508

San Nicolas:

San Lucas Tel. 584 5119

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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Netherlands vegetable seed developer wins World Food Prize

By DAVID PITT
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A seed developer from the Netherlands credited with introducing high quality disease-resistant vegetable seeds to more than 60 countries including the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia was awarded the 2019 World Food Prize on Monday.

Simon Groot, a sixth generation seedsman, began his search to create better vegetable seeds to help farmers in Southeast Asia in 1981 at age 47 after his family's company was taken over by a larger corporation.

He had learned 16 years earlier on his first trip to Indonesia that vegetable seeds developed for the temperate climate of Europe did poorly when planted in the tropics. He thought there was a huge opportunity to introduce hybrid vegetables to the region, which lacked vegetable seed developers working to adapt hybrids to the local climate. "It was neither charity nor business. It was a passion for good seeds," said Groot, now 85. "It had always bothered me that I noticed the seed quality in



This Feb 11, 2019 photo provided by World Food Prize Foundation shows Simon Groot in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

that part of world was so much below our standards and below achievable standards and as a seedsman I couldn't stand that the farmers there were just deprived of decent seeds." At the time, farmers in Southeast Asia typically

saved seeds from season to season to plant because seeds available for purchase were often expired lots from Europe and North America and poorly adapted to their climate. They were stuck with low yields, quality that varied greatly

from season to season, and plants susceptible to a wide variety of diseases.

Groot partnered with seed trader Benito Domingo of the Philippines and put together a team of seed researchers and breeders from Wageningen University in the Netherlands and the University of the Philippines. With a few years, they developed a hybrid bitter melon that was commercially successful. They then adapted a tomato variety, followed by eggplants, pumpkins and leafy vegetables.

The early successes led to the creation of the East-West Seed Company, which now has more than 970 improved seed varieties of 60 vegetable crops. Over the past four decades, the innovations led to the creation of a tropical vegetable seed industry geared toward small-holder farmers now spreading into Asia, Africa and Latin America.

It's estimated that the company's seeds benefit 20 million farmers a year in more than 60 countries, said Kenneth Quinn, the former U.S. ambassador to Vietnam who has been the president of the Des Moines,

Iowa-based World Food Prize Foundation since 2000. "Farmers' daily lives were uplifted and consumers benefited from greater access to nutritious vegetables," Quinn said. "You put all those together and he's a truly remarkable individual with worthy accomplishments that should be recognized."

Groot's award was announced during a ceremony at the U.S. Department of State hosted by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. "The remarkable improvements made in these tropical vegetable seeds helped small farmers in developing nations produce more food and importantly get more income for themselves and their families curbing hunger and stimulating economic growth wherever these seeds went," Pompeo said.

Groot will receive the \$250,000 World Food Prize during an Oct. 17 award ceremony at the Iowa Capitol.

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Norman Borlaug created the prize in 1986 to recognize scientists and others who have improved the quality and availability of food. □



This May 20, 2019 file photo shows marijuana plants in a grow room using green lights during their night cycle in Gardena, Calif.

Associated Press

Signs of ritual pot smoking found in ancient Chinese graves

By CHRISTINA LARSON
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Archaeologists have unearthed the earliest direct evidence of people smoking marijuana from a 2,500-year-old graveyard in western China.

In a complex of lofty tombs in the Pamir Mountains — a region near the borders of modern China, Pakistan and Tajikistan — excavators found 10 wooden bowls and several stones containing burnt residue of the cannabis plant. Scientists believe heated stones were used to burn the marijuana and people then inhaled the smoke as part of a burial ritual. "It's the earliest strong evidence of people getting high" on

marijuana, said Mark Merlin, a botanist at the University of Hawaii. He was not involved in the research published Wednesday in the journal Science Advances. The history of ancient drug use has long intrigued scholars. The Greek historian Herodotus wrote of people in Central Asia smoking cannabis around 440 B.C. In the past century, archaeologists have found cannabis seeds and plants buried in tombs across Central Asia's highlands, including in southern Siberia, and elsewhere in western China's Xinjiang region. Today, scholars don't consider ancient accounts trustworthy without corroborating evidence. And since the cannabis plant has other uses

— seeds are pressed for oil and fibers used for cloth — the presence of seeds alone doesn't confirm drug use. Using new techniques for chemical analysis, the study's examined the residue and found evidence of THC, the compound that gives pot its high. Most wild cannabis plants have low levels of THC, so the researchers believe the people who built the graves selected or cultivated plants with higher amounts. "During funeral rites, the smokers may have hoped to communicate with the spirit world — or with the people they were burying," said study co-author Yimin Yang of the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing. □



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'The Buffalo Hunt' seeks to show tribe in a new light

By **RUSSELL CONTRERAS**
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — "The Buffalo Hunt," a new documentary on the homeland of the Oglala Lakota, attempts to shun clichés around the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota involving poverty and addiction and instead focus on traditions around the Native American tribe.

Directed by Philip Di Fiore,

the film lets the Lakota Sioux people of today speak without narration as they work to save customs passed down by the elders through the buffalo hunt — a sacred act which extends to all aspects of life. There, in the hunt, elders share stories on how previous generations used the animal's gifts and prepared hunters for the world before them. Young members watch and participate.



In this March 2018 photo, provided by The Buffalo Hunt LLC, amm Brewer, left, and Oglala Lakota Chief Ricky Gray Grass look over a dead buffalo following a traditional buffalo hunt on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Associated Press

The year-long project on Pine Ridge began after producer Phillip O'Leary took part in the 2016 protests at Standing Rock over the proposed Dakota Access Pipeline over concerns the local drinking water would be polluted. O'Leary originally wanted to dive into a documentary around the Standing Rock protests until he met Pine Ridge members, Di Fiore said. The Lakota Sioux men, like members of other Native American tribes from New Mexico to Oklahoma, had come to Standing Rock in solitary. "Phillip was captivated by their stories so the focus of the project changed," Di Fiore said.

But would it fall victim of other stereotypical portray-

als? Pine Ridge has been the subject of a number of documentaries that have centered on the reservation's extreme poverty, chronic alcoholism or drug addiction. Those films, like the 2008 "The Battle for Whiteclay" and the 2014 "Sober Indian Dangerous Indian," regularly juxtapose the breathtaking landscape of the Great Plains with human suffering in a place where unemployment hovers around 85 percent.

"As a white guy from New York coming into their world, I didn't want to fall into these traps," said Di Fiore, a Brooklyn-based director best known for shooting music videos. "So we were very careful not to insert a

preachy message or stamp our views on anything. We just let the story unfold."

Eventually, Di Fiore and his crew turned their attention to traditional buffalo hunts where the Oglala Lakota worked on their terms. Di Fiore conducted no interviews. He didn't seek outside experts to explain anything. Instead, he filmed detailed shots of hunters skinning a buffalo then delivering meat to elders for stew. That became the window to larger stories about community across the sprawling 3,500 square-mile (9,064 square-kilometer) reservation.

Some shots go longer than expected. An elder's nearly five-minute speech is shown in its entirety. □

Tessa Thompson is OK with the 'Men in Black' title, for now

By **JOHN CARUCCI**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The "Men in Black" franchise has a new recruit who isn't a man, but actress Tessa Thompson is fine with keeping the masculine-centered film title — for now. Joined by co-star Chris Hemsworth on a black carpet, Thompson shrugged off the gender issue at the world premiere of "Men in Black: International" on Tuesday in New York. "No, I don't mind," Thompson said. Thompson cited her co-star Emma Thompson, who reprises her role in the

series, as a voice of reason when it comes to gender equality and representation. "She said something great, like 'I've had the conversation, it takes time.' I think what she's speaking to is the fact that sometimes change happens quicker than we have language to describe it," Thompson said. "I pitched some ideas like 'People in Black,' but that would be 'PiB,' which sounds like a sandwich. I pitched 'Humans in Black,' which would be 'HiB,' which sounds like something you don't want to get," Thompson said. □



Actors Chris Hemsworth, left, and Tessa Thompson attend the world premiere of "Men in Black: International," at the AMC Loews Lincoln Square, Tuesday, June 11, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

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SUN 3:10 | 5:45 | 8:20

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SAT 3:00 | 5:30 | 8:00 | 10:30
SUN 3:00 | 5:30 | 8:00

PBP MON-THU 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20
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PBP FRI-SAT 10:45

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SAT-SUN 2:14 | 4:45

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PBP MON-THU 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35
FRI 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SAT 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SUN 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35

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Pets 2
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 5:25 | 7:30
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SUN 1:15 | 3:15 | 5:25 | 7:30

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FRI 4:40 | 6:40 | 8:40 | 10:40
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KEANU REEVES | HAILLE BERRY

CHAPTER JOHN 3 WICK
PARABELLUM
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 5:35 | 8:30
FRI 5:35 | 8:30 | 11:00
SAT 2:40 | 5:35 | 8:30 | 11:00
SUN 2:40 | 5:35 | 8:30

WILL SMITH | MENA MASSOUD

Aladdin
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:40
SAT-SUN 3:00 | 5:50 | 8:40

PBP MON-THU 4:55 | 7:40
FRI 4:55 | 7:40 | 10:25
SAT 2:10 | 4:55 | 7:40 | 10:25
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PBP MON-THU & SUN 7:15 | 9:35
FRI-SAT 7:15 | 9:35 | 11:55

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On Anne Frank's 90th birthday, her friends meet students

By **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — For Jacqueline van Maarsen, attending Anne Frank's 13th birthday party in 1942 was a welcome distraction from the grim reality of life in Nazi-occupied Amsterdam during World War II. Enjoying movies and cookies at Anne's apartment meant "we didn't think about it at that moment," the 90-year-old Van Maarsen said Wednesday as she and another of Anne's friends met students from Amsterdam schools at an event to mark what would have been Anne's 90th birthday. The 13th birthday party was a fleeting relief for children already suffering from discriminatory, anti-Jewish regulations and forced to wear Star of David patches on their clothes. Just three weeks later, Anne and her family fled into hiding in the secret annex behind a canal-side house that was made famous in her diary. Less than three years after that, exhausted and suffering from typhus, Anne died with her sister in the Bergen-Belsen Nazi concentration camp in February 1945. Wednes-



Jacqueline van Maarsen, center, poses for a photo with students from the International School of Amsterdam during an event to mark what would have been Anne Frank's 90th birthday, in Amsterdam on Wednesday, June 12, 2019.

day's meeting was at the Frank family's former apartment in southern Amsterdam, where they lived before going into hiding. They hid in the annex for just over two years before being arrested and deported to Nazi-run concentration camps. Anne's father Otto, the only member of the family to survive the

war, later published her diaries. The book went on to be published in dozens of countries around the world and is regarded as one of the most important works of the 20th century.

It was on her 13th birthday that Anne received her first red checkered diary, calling it "maybe one of my nicest presents." A similar

diary was laid on a table along with other gifts — a blue blouse, cold cream, a book, that she described receiving on her birthday. Like Anne, with whom he attended Amsterdam's Jewish Lyceum, Albert Gomes de Mesquita, 89, also went into hiding. Unlike the Franks, he moved around the country from

Associated Press

one hiding place to another as he dodged arrest and deportation.

Asked what lessons he would pass on to the youth of today, he told students from the International School of Amsterdam: "I think you have to learn things from what happens. I've been helped by so many different people and they were Roman Catholic, Protestant, atheist, communist, rich, poor," he said. "I've slept in 12 different places during hiding and my lesson is: Good people can be found everywhere." Squeezed into the living room of the apartment, which has been painstakingly restored so that it looks like it would have when the Frank's lived there, the students listened intently and peppered Van Maarsen and Gomes de Mesquita with questions.

"It was really incredible to meet them, not only as Anne's friends but as survivors of the war," said 13-year-old Sietse Munting. He was moved by Van Maarsen saying that she sometimes felt like she lost her identity because she was labeled as Anne's friend. □

Romeo Santos on upcoming MetLife show: 'It's a blessing'

By **MESFIN FEKADU**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — For Romeo Santos, performing live isn't just about singing a song. It's about giving die-hard fans an entertaining, memorable and life-changing experience.

"When you go to a concert, when you go pay money, it has to go beyond just performing the song — anyone can do that," he said. "It has to be special in many ways."

His commitment to live performance is probably why he's been able to sell out Yankee Stadium twice and is now set to become the first Latin act to perform at MetLife Stadium, home to the New York Giants and New York Jets. The King of Bachata will perform his "UTOPIA The Concert" at the East Rutherford, New



In this Monday, June 10, 2019 photo, singer Romeo Santos poses for a portrait at the JW Marriott Essex House in New York, New York.

Associated Press

Jersey, venue on Sept. 21. "It is a blessing," the singer of Dominican and Puerto Rican descent, who hails from the Bronx, said in an interview Monday. "I've had loyal fans for quite a while now. To be able to even say that I've already sold

out two nights at Yankee Stadium, multiple nights at Madison Square Garden — it's truly a blessing. Now it's a new challenge in my career to do MetLife, so I'm super-excited about that." At Santos' concerts, the venue usually turns into

something like a nightclub as fans show up dressed in their best outfits, with groups of women enjoying a girls' night out or couples dancing closely together on date night.

Santos, 37, said he's never attended a show at MetLife but has been hard at work preparing for the big show. Only a handful of acts have been able to perform a show at MetLife, which can house more than 80,000 fans. They include Taylor Swift, Beyoncé, BTS and the Rolling Stones, who will perform two shows at the venue in August.

"I'm putting more energy into making sure that I show my fans an evolution, production-wise. I want to make sure people leave that stadium saying this is Romeo's best show yet," he said.

Santos, who is the CEO of Roc Nation Latino and has collaborated with Drake and Usher, said he hopes to perform his entire new album, "Utopia," during the show. The album reunites him with his former bandmates in Aventura, the group that gave Santos his start.

"Anything is possible," he said when asked if Aventura would perform at the MetLife show. "I never reveal surprises."

"Utopia" debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Top Latin albums chart in April and features some of the best old-school bachateros, including Antony "El Mayimbe" Santos, Frank Reyes, Raulín Rodríguez and El Chaval de la Bachata.

Santos said he was successful at keeping the project a secret. □

DC's go-go sound becomes anti-gentrification battle cry

By ASHRAF KHALIL

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's the soundtrack of "Chocolate City," the nonfederal Washington that has traditionally been a tent pole of black America.

Go-go music, a distinctive D.C.-specific offshoot of funk, has endured for decades through cultural shifts, fluctuations in popularity and law enforcement purges.

Now go-go has taken on a new mantle: battle hymn for the fight against a gentrification wave that's reshaping the city.

"It's a very deep cultural thing," said Justin "Yaddiya" Johnson, an activist and organizer of several go-go-themed protest concerts. "When you think about go-go, you should think about D.C. culture. It should be the symbol of our culture."

Many longtime Washingtonians fear that culture is being steadily eroded as the city becomes whiter and richer.

A recent controversy over an innocuous noise complaint placed go-go at the center of a perfect storm of gentrification symbolism.

The owner of a popular mobile phone store in the historically black Shaw neighborhood was told to turn off the go-go that he had been playing through sidewalk speakers for more than 20 years.

He claims the complaint came from a resident of the gleaming new mixed-used apartment building erected on the next block. The reaction was fierce. Seemingly overnight, a protest movement and petition drive sprung up and members of the D.C. Council started weighing in. Within days, the decision was reversed.

The mini-controversy was over almost before it started. But it obviously touched a nerve.

"I think that was messed up. Go-go is D.C. Go-go is our history," said community activist Tiffany Richardson, one of the thousands of fans who turned out on a Tuesday night this month

for an outdoor concert/protest featuring go-go mainstays Backyard Band. "They're not going to stop

said Liza Figueroa Kravinsky, founder of the band Go-Go Symphony. "In go-go, the fans know who the

Authorities blamed the music for drawing violence when he says go-go was simply the ambient

"go-go report" tracking all the shows in the area.

Glover says the attitudes of the police have eased a bit in recent years and Backyard Band and others now play regular shows around the district.

But there's still a shortage of the all-ages shows that used to be the main gateway for young new fans. That age gap was evident during one of Backyard Band's recent shows at a bowling alley in Chinatown. The concert drew a healthy crowd of about 150 people — many of whom were obvious hardcores who knew every song by heart. But almost everybody seemed to be at least 35 years old.

Now the renewed attention comes at a time when go-go may organically be approaching one of its periodic flirtations with mainstream popularity.

Glover has gained personal fame for a memorable recurring role as Slim Charles on the popular TV show "The Wire."

Artists as diverse as Snoop Dog and Dave Grohl from Foo Fighters have paid public tribute to the genre. Rare Essence and Backyard Band have both performed at the South by Southwest music festival and Backyard Band recently scored an improbable hit with a go-go cover of Adele's "Hello."

Wale, the most famous Washington rapper, pays regular homage to go-go and recorded a song with TCB, purveyors of a neo-go-go sound called bounce-beat.

But local musicians still feel authorities have kept the culture at arms-length. They want to see the District government embrace go-go the way Chicago has done with blues and New Orleans with jazz. They want a go-go museum, a hall of fame and go-go landmark-themed tours.

Glover says District politicians tend to rediscover their affection for go-go during election season.

"They love us at campaign rally time," he laughed. "They know that's the only way to bring people out." □



In this image provided by Akil Ransome, Moechella music rally at the corner of 14th and U street NW in Washington, Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

Associated Press

go-go."

The concert, mischievously named "Moechella," was organized by Johnson. And since it was a protest, he didn't need to secure a permit, so police obligingly blocked off several city blocks.

The location —the corner of 14th and U streets — was no accident. That intersection was once one of the hearts of black D.C.; now it's within two blocks of a Trader Joe's and a lululemon.

To the uninitiated, go-go music seems indistinguishable from funk.

What sets it apart are a specific conga-driven syncopation, known as the pocket beat, and a culture of call-and-response that turns the crowd into part of the show. Go-go bands feature multiple percussionists and often multiple vocalists— with one usually designated as "lead talker."

"It's the drumming it's the rhythm pattern.

It's the feel of the rhythm,"

conga player is more than the guitar player."

The late Chuck Brown is generally considered the godfather of the sound, starting in the early 1970s. And bands like Rare Essence and Trouble Funk have all flirted with mainstream success, but there has never been a full-scale breakout star. Probably the most famous go-go song is "Da Butt" by Experience Unlimited, which was showcased in the Spike Lee film "School Daze."

While the music retains a local fanbase, musicians and devotees say the scene is still recovering from the effects of the crack epidemic, which ravaged Washington and turned go-go shows into magnets for violence.

Eventually police began shutting down famous clubs like the Ibex in 1990s and forcing the shows out of the city.

Anwan "Big G" Glover, lead talker of Backyard Band, still recalls the time with bitterness.

soundtrack of a city in crisis.

"Those rave parties in the suburbs with these rich kids — if anything happened there, they could just cover it up. That was the difference," he said.

The purge was especially damaging because go-go is all about live performances. Glover and others say there's a missing generation of fans who weren't exposed to live go-go in their youth.

"The reason a lot of kids don't know about go-go is that it's been erased," said Angela Byrd, founder of "Made in the DMV" incubator for local artists and activists. She was speaking at a recent conference organized under the banner of #DontMuteDC.

"I feel like go-go was pushed out, but it's coming back."

This official mistrust has continued. As recently as 2010 the alternative weekly City Paper published the Metropolitan Police Department's bi-weekly internal

How do you teach kids about texting? Bring in the teenagers

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER

Associated Press

ESSEN, Germany (AP) —

How do you teach tech-savvy kids to safely navigate the digital world? In Germany, you bring in the teenagers.

On a recent day, 18-year-old Chantal Hueben stood in front of a group of fifth-graders and asked them to brainstorm about the messaging program Whatsapp, which most are using to participate in a group chat for their class. They spoke about themes like cyberbullying and what material is OK to post.

"Many are not really aware yet of the impact their messages can have on others," says Hueben, dressed all in black except for white sneakers. "We're teaching them not to post anything private on the class chat, not to send photos of others and not to insult anybody." The session at the Gesamtschule Borbeck high school, in the western German city of Essen, is part of a large-scale program in which teenagers teach their younger schoolmates how to stay safe and sane online.

As they grow older, they also participate in workshops about media copyright issues or sexting, and, at the end of eighth grade, they take a test to get a laminated "mobile license" that allows them to use their smartphones at certain times at school.

The exam includes 10 multiple choice questions. One asks what to do when somebody sends an embarrassing Snapchat photo of a fellow student. The answer, of course, is to not forward the picture to others. Over two-thirds of kids in Germany have smartphones by the age of 11 and, like children around the world, many are stressed by the huge number of messages they receive and don't know how to handle inappropriate and hurtful posts. With many parents and teachers lacking in digital skills and unable to relate to what it means to grow up with a smartphone, Ger-



Senior students and media scouts Leon Zielinski, right, and Chantal Hueben teach young pupils during a lesson in social media and internet at a comprehensive school in Essen, Germany, Monday, March 18, 2019.

man authorities decided peer education was the best approach.

At Borbeck, which has about 1,000 students and is considered one of the most advanced schools in Germany when it comes to teaching digital skills, there are 32 students teaching in the "Medienscouts," or media scouts, program.

"We're also students, so we have this buddy and role model relationship with the younger kids that definitely motivates them to learn from us," Hueben says.

With the program, Germany is ahead of many other countries, where "media skills" are often taught by teachers and are more about how to read or watch news media rather

than the personal impact. It was founded in 2011 by public authorities in the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia. In Germany, education is managed by the country's 16 separate states, and now 11 of them have established similar programs in hundreds of schools.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, 766 schools have so far participated in the media scout program. More than 3,120 high school students have been trained as scouts and around 1,500 teachers have acted as guidance counselors to help the kids grow up as mature cyber world citizens. "It would be great if the media scouts would be established at every high school," said

Associated Press

Sven Hulvershorn from the media authority agency for the western German state, who oversees the media scout program. "We're not there yet, but we're working on it." Beyond teaching children how to deal with the daily stress of digital communications, experts in Germany agree there's a need to coach them in how to protect themselves from online bullying, sexual predators or fake news.

"We first had a complete ban on phones in our school," explained teacher Vera Servaty, who is the media scouts' guidance counselor at Borbeck high school. "But the reality is that media is a central aspect of the students' lives. If the school doesn't help

them navigate the media and the parents aren't of any help either then how should the children learn responsible ways with the digital world?"

The program is more developed than in many other countries. In the United States, many schools have not fully embraced peer-to-peer tutoring in social media, says Liz Kolb, a professor of education technology at the University of Michigan.

U.S. schools are required by a federal program to teach appropriate online behavior, but that is done by teachers and while some schools offer peer-to-peer tutoring, it is not on the scale of what Germany is doing.

"Schools are pretty much figuring out their own way because there really is no strong mandate they have to have a certain curriculum or specific goals," Kolb said of the U.S. "It's definitely needed and schools are seeing that it's needed, they just don't know how to go about fitting it into the already tight curriculum they have."

At Borbeck high school, the media scouts spend several hours teaching the fifth graders how not to let WhatsApp take over their lives. Beyond practical tricks, like turning off the setting that lets the sender know if a message has been read, the older students also talk with the fifth-graders about learning how to take breaks from their smart phone.

After the end of Hueben's workshop, 11-year-old Simon Scharenberg looked relieved.

He said he often felt overwhelmed by the hundreds of WhatsApp messages he receives every day, most of them from schoolmates in the class group chat. He felt obliged to follow up on all of them out of fear of missing important information about homework or school activities.

After the WhatsApp workshop, Scharenberg said he felt more confident about taking a break from messaging. □



Pupils attend a lesson in social media and internet behind a sign reading "WhatsApp Stress" at a comprehensive school in Essen, Germany, Monday, March 18, 2019.

Associated Press